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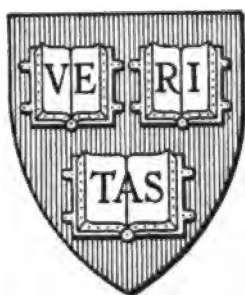
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R E P O R T S
FROM
C O M M I T T E E S:
EIGHT VOLUMES.

— (8.) —

**TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS;
WALTHAM ABBEY GUNPOWDER FACTORY;
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES; WOODS AND FORESTS;
WORKMEN (WOOLWICH);
YORKSHIRE PROVIDENT INSURANCE.**

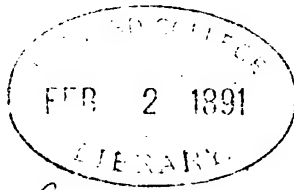
Session
21 February 1889 — 30 August 1889.

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~~Brut. Doc. 875~~



Sumner Fund.

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1889.

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-

R E P O R T
FROM THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON
TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS;
TOGETHER WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,
M I N U T E S O F E V I D E N C E,
AND APPENDIX.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
2 August 1889.*

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HENRY HANSARD AND SON;
AND
Published by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding-street, London, E.C.,
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ADAM and CHARLES BLACK, North Bridge, Edinburgh;
and HODGES, FIGGIS, and Co., 104 Grafton-street, Dublin.

*Ordered,—[Thursday, 21st March 1889]:—*THAT the Select Committee be re-appointed to inquire into and report on (1) the Administration of Trustee Savings Banks under “The Trustee Savings Banks Act, 1863;” (2) The Powers, Duties, and Liabilities of the Trustees, Managers, and Officers of Trustee Savings Banks; (3) The relations of Trustee Savings Banks to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and other Offices or Departments of the Government, so far as these relations affect the internal management of the affairs of the said Banks; and (4) The alleged assumption by certain Trustee Savings Banks of designations calculated to mislead depositors.

THAT the Committee do consist of Seventeen Members.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Barbour.	Sir John Kennaway.
Mr. Bartley.	Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. James Campbell.	Mr. Shaw Lefevre.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.	Mr. Mowbray.
Sir John Dorington.	Mr. William Redmond.
Mr. John Ellis.	Mr. David Thomas.
Mr. Hayden.	Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Howell.	

THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

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R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE which was appointed to inquire into and Report on (1) the Administration of **TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS**; (2) the Powers, Duties, and Liabilities of the **TRUSTEES, MANAGERS, and OFFICERS** of **TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS**; (3) the relations of **TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS** to the **COMMISSIONERS** for the **REDUCTION** of the **NATIONAL DEBT**, the **REGISTRAR** of **FRIENDLY SOCIETIES**, and other Offices or Departments of the Government, so far as these relations affect the internal management of the affairs of the said **BANKS**; and (4) the alleged assumption, by certain **TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS**, of designations calculated to mislead Depositors;—**HAVE** considered the matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following **REPORT**:—

YOUR Committee was appointed to inquire into and report (1) on the administration of the trustees savings banks under the Trustees Savings Banks Act, 1863; (2) the powers, duties, and liabilities of the trustees, managers, and officers of trustees savings banks; (3) the relation of trustee savings banks to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and other offices or departments of the Government, so far as these relations affect the internal management of the affairs of the said banks; and, (4) the alleged assumption by certain trustees savings banks of designations calculated to mislead depositors.

Your Committee have considered that they were not justified by their instructions in inquiring into the financial condition of individual banks; they have felt there were objections to such a course, even if it were open to them. They have directed their inquiry to the general system of management of the banks, and to the other points referred to in their instructions. They have taken evidence on these matters from the National Debt Commissioners, from the Registrar of Friendly Societies, from the Commissioner appointed to inquire into the Cardiff Bank, and from several of the larger savings banks.

Your Committee do not think it necessary to review the early history of legislation affecting trustees savings banks. An interesting account of this, drawn up some years ago by Mr. J. M. Ludlow, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, for the Royal Commission on Friendly Societies, will be found in the Appendix. For the purposes of the present inquiry it is not necessary to go further back than the year 1861, when the Post Office savings banks were constituted, and the year 1863, when an Act was passed consolidating all previous legislation affecting trustees savings banks, and making some important changes in the law relating to them.

In 1863 the trustees savings banks in the United Kingdom numbered 622, with 1,558,000 depositors, and deposits amounting to 40,563,000 *l.* A very few new banks have since then been created, while a very large number then existing have been wound up. The present number is 380, with 1,500,000 depositors, and 45,000,000 *l.* of deposits.

The number of depositors in the Post Office savings banks has now reached a total of 3,951,000, with deposits amounting to 53,974,000 *l.* The average deposit at the trustees savings banks is 29 *l.* 9 *s.* 1 *d.*, and that at the Post Office is 13 *l.* 13 *s.* 1 *d.* It appears also that a very large number of charitable societies, friendly societies, and penny banks have deposits at the trustees savings banks, and that the number is increasing rather than diminishing. In 1887 the number of charitable societies was 15,861, with funds amounting to 759,000 *l.*; of friendly societies 14,342, with funds 2,500,000 *l.*; and of penny banks 2,000, with 109,000 *l.* The interest allowed by the Government on money in their hands, belonging to the trustees savings banks was, till lately, 3 *l.* per cent., but last year it was reduced to 2 *l.* 15 *s.* The interest allowed by the banks to the depositors has till lately varied from 2 *l.* 10 *s.* to 2 *l.* 15 *s.*, and is now being reduced in proportion to the reduction of the interest allowed by the Government.

The banks, which have been closed, have with a few exceptions been those with a comparatively small amount of deposits, and in which the trustees have not felt interested in maintaining their banks in view of the facilities offered by the Post Office. Some of the larger banks have, however, been closed, such as the Birmingham Savings Bank with deposits amounting to 600,000*l.*, the Bristol Bank with deposits of 570,000 *l.*, and others with deposits of over 100,000 *l.* During the course of the inquiry by your Committee, numerous other banks have been closed, or are in course of closing, as will appear from the Return in the Appendix (*see* Appendix 3). It appears that this movement is due not to the fact of the inquiry by your Committee, but to the fact that trustees have in many cases been alarmed by the disclosures of the Cardiff Bank and others, and the probable liability which might attach to them individually in the event of loss by mismanagement of their banks. It may be that this tendency towards the closing of the smaller banks will go further, and that their deposits will be transferred to the Post Office savings banks.

The evidence before your Committee tends to show that while in the case of the smaller banks, which are open for a few hours only in each week, such institutions do not, in some respects, afford facilities equal to those of the Post Office savings banks, yet the larger banks, and especially those which are open every day of the week, compete on very favourable terms with the Post Office. It should here be noted, however, that of the 281 banks in England and Wales, particulars of which are given in Appendix 10, only 24 were open daily, on an average of 25 hours per week; 37 were open on three or more days, for an average of 10 hours weekly; 71 were open on two days in the week, on an average only of four hours weekly; while 129 banks were only open on one day in the week, on an average of two hours per week; and 20 were only open once a fortnight or once a month, on an average of one hour per week. So that more than one-half the total number were open from one to two hours per week only.

The managers of the larger trustees savings banks, it is alleged, are better able to accommodate their methods of business to the wants of their depositors than can the Post Office officials with their more rigid rules. The trustees savings banks, for instance, while retaining the legal right to require notice before any depositor withdraws his money, in practice allow him to withdraw either the whole or a large part of the deposit without any notice, or upon simple application. On the other hand, withdrawal can only be made from the Post Office savings banks after notice, by an application, which has to be forwarded to London; and some delay consequently takes place before the depositor can obtain his money. It is also said that the greater secrecy of the trustees savings banks is much appreciated by large classes of depositors, who do not like to have letters addressed to them by the central office, disclosing the fact that there is a deposit standing in their names.

From whatever cause, it is certain that in some large towns, where the trustees savings banks have existed for many years, and have gained the confidence of the people, there is a marked preference for those banks over the Post Office banks. It appears, therefore, that there is room for both Trustees and Post Office savings banks, and your Committee, while thinking it probable that many more of the smaller trustees banks may be merged in the Post Office, would regret the general disappearance of such banks.

It becomes therefore all the more important to consider whether the banks as now constituted and managed afford a reasonable security to the depositors.

It cannot be too widely known and appreciated that the Government is not responsible for the solvency of the trustees savings banks. It is responsible only to the trustees for so much of the money deposited in these banks as is forwarded to the Bank of England by the trustees. But there are no means of knowing whether these sums represent the total deposits or whether the provisions of the Savings Bank Acts are actually and properly carried out. Nor is the Government responsible for the proper application of the money withdrawn by the trustees.

The savings banks are bound to transmit weekly to the National Debt Commissioners statements of their receipts and payments, and the amount transmitted to or drawn from the Commissioners; also yearly statements of their accounts. But the National Debt Commissioners have no means whatever of knowing whether the statements so rendered, weekly or yearly, are accurate, except as to the amounts transmitted or withdrawn; or whether they truly represent the real condition of the bank, as to either assets or liabilities.

The National Debt Commissioners are also empowered to call upon the savings banks to render accounts of their expenses and cost of management. By virtue of these powers

powers they have considered that they are justified in calling upon the trustees of individual banks to explain any excessive expenditure upon management, and have in some cases disallowed items of expenditure which have seemed to them to be illegitimate. It is doubtful, however, whether their powers extend so far as this. These powers of calling for accounts and of questioning items of expenditure go very little way towards securing the good management or the solvency of these institutions, while they tend to encourage a belief that the Commissioners are responsible for the accuracy of the accounts.

In the case of the Cardiff Bank, where serious defalcations occurred, and where there was gross negligence on the part of the trustees of all the main directions of the Act of 1863, the accounts laid before the National Debt Commissioners were in perfect order; it was considered a model bank, and there was nothing in the accounts for 10 years past which threw any doubt upon its state.

An important provision affecting these banks and the National Debt Commissioners was contained in "The Trustees' Savings Banks Act of 1887," which provided "that the Treasury may, if satisfied, on the representation either of such a number of the depositors in any trustee savings bank as appears to them sufficient, or of the Commissioners of the National Debt, that there is good reason for causing an examination to be made into the affairs of any trustee savings bank, apply *ex parte* to any Judge of the High Court of Justice, who, if satisfied that such examination is desirable, may thereupon appoint a master of the Supreme Court of Judicature and a barrister of not less than seven years' standing as a commission to hold a local inquiry into the affairs of such bank, and to report thereon."

The Act was passed in order to institute an inquiry into the affairs of the Cardiff Bank. It will be seen that the provision is a somewhat cumbrous one; it necessitates the National Debt Commissioners, the Treasury, and a Judge of the Supreme Court being set in motion. It is a measure under which proceedings can be taken only when the bank is in an embarrassed condition. It is obvious that such proceedings would compel the winding up of such bank even if it should turn out that it was perfectly solvent. What is desirable is that there should be reasonable security that the banks should not get into a condition where inquiries of this kind become necessary.

Since the year 1863 there have been a certain number of cases in which serious defalcations have been discovered in the case of trustee savings banks. Thus, in the year 1878 defalcations were discovered in the Epsom Savings Bank; in 1879 in the Alnwick, in the Thame Bank, and Newark Bank; in 1886 in the Cardiff Bank; in 1887 in the Bishop Stortford, Chertsey, and Sevenoaks Banks.

It does not appear that in any of these cases there was ultimate loss to the depositors, save in that of the Cardiff Bank, which is still in liquidation, and possibly in two cases of small amount referred to in Mr. Taylor's evidence, Questions 380-90. It is probable that in most cases any deficiency which the winding up of the banks disclosed was made good, either by the trustees, by public subscription, or by using the Separate Surplus Fund standing to the credit of the bank in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners.

In view of the fact that deficiencies have been made good in this manner, it becomes important to consider what is the nature of this separate surplus fund, and how far it should be treated as applicable to such emergencies. The separate surplus fund is constituted under the 29th section of the Act of 1863, and is there described as the amount by which the property of the savings banks is increased by the interest received beyond the rate of interest payable to the depositors, or by any other means, after the deduction of all such expenses as the trustees may deem proper. This amount was to be certified to the Commissioners, and by them transferred to a separate account, the trustees having the right to claim it from the Commissioners on such certificate as the Commissioners might appoint. By a subsequent Act (43 & 44 Vict. c. 36, s. 6) in 1880, the trustees are not bound to pay over this surplus to the Commissioners, except when required by the Commissioners so to do. Your Committee would express an opinion, that the purposes for which the surplus fund may be made available should be clearly defined by legislation.

In the Cardiff Bank, however, where the defalcations reached a very serious amount, the trustees have disputed their liability, and the matter is still *sub judice*. In this case the directions of the Act of 1863 with respect to the deposits and withdrawals of money and the checks by trustees, were habitually disregarded; large sums were received and paid

paid out of office hours and not in the bank premises; the limit of deposits allowed by the Act was exceeded in numerous cases; the audit was of a most perfunctory character, and the pass-books were not compared with the ledgers. It resulted that the actuary was able to appropriate the funds of the bank by not entering in the ledger the full sums paid in by depositors; by entering in the ledger sums which were not paid to the depositors; and these fraudulent transactions were carried on over many years resulting in a loss to the bank of 37,000 £. These frauds could not have taken place if the trustees had performed the duties prescribed by the Act, or if the audit had been a proper one, or if the pass-books had been even occasionally compared with the ledgers.

Whether this failure and neglect of duty was such as to render the trustees liable to the depositors for the deficiency in the funds caused by the defalcations of the officer of the bank is a question which is still *sub judice*. The Act of 1863, s. 11, provides that no trustee of any savings bank shall be personally liable except,—

(1.) For moneys actually received by him on account of or for the use of such savings bank, and not paid over and disposed of in the manner directed by the rules of the savings bank.

(2.) For neglect or omission in complying with the rules and regulations required by the Act, to be adopted as hereinbefore is provided, in the maintenance of checks, the audit and examination of accounts, the holding of meetings and keeping of accounts.

(3.) And also for neglect and omission in taking security from officers, as is hereinbefore provided.

It is impossible for your Committee to express a confident opinion as to what is the limit of liability of trustees and managers of savings banks under this section until the legal questions involved in the winding up of the Cardiff Bank and the claims made against the trustees are finally decided by the courts of law. If it should turn out that the trustees in that bank are legally responsible for the defalcations of the actuary, the decision may have a very important effect upon the general position of trustees of such banks, and may tend to induce many trustees to withdraw from these institutions through fear of liability, or to promote measures for winding up the banks with which they are connected.

If, on the other hand, it should turn out that there is no liability on the part of the trustees of the Cardiff Bank, it is to be feared that there will be a general sense of insecurity on the part of depositors in trustee savings banks, for it will appear that trustees may grossly neglect their duties, may disregard all the directions of the Act of 1863, and may negligently stand by while the actuary is committing fraud, without any remedy to the depositors or any sufficient security against such proceedings in other cases.

On looking carefully into the provisions of the Act of 1863, your Committee are of opinion that, if these provisions are fully, carefully, and accurately carried out, there would be little danger of any loss through negligence or fraud. The point at which danger occurs is the receipt and payment of money from and to the depositors, and the due entry of these receipts and payments in the pass-books of the depositors and in the ledgers of the banks. The defalcations which have occurred have generally, if not always, taken the form of some officer of the bank taking money from a depositor and not entering the receipt of it in the bank ledger, or, on the other hand, making an entry of a payment to a depositor in the ledger differing from that actually made and entered in the pass-book of the depositor.

- Section 6. The Act of 1863 provides against this by requiring “that not less than two persons,
Sub-section 2. “being either trustees, managers, or paid officers appointed for that specific purpose, or
“where two only, except in the case of savings banks which are opened for more than
“six hours in any week, one such person shall be a trustee or manager, be present on all
“occasions of public business, and be parties to any transaction of deposit or payment, so
“as to form at least a double check on any such transaction with depositors.
- Sub-section 3. “That the depositor’s pass-book shall be compared with the ledger on every transac-
“tion of repayment, and on its first production at the bank after each twentieth day of
“November.
- Sub-section 4. “That every depositor shall once at least in every year cause his deposit book to be
“produced at the office of the bank for the purpose of being examined.”

In

In the banks which are not open for more than six hours a week, and where the trustees carry out fully these directions, there is practically a check upon every transaction by a person independently of the officer of the bank who receives or pays the money. Where, however, the trustees neglect to perform this duty, or where the duty is left to two officers, it may well be that there is not sufficient check against negligence or fraud.

In banks where the trustees are unable to give a continuous attendance, this necessary check, it is asserted, is practically supplied by means of a continuous audit. The auditor has the power of entering the bank at any time of the day, and of comparing the pass-books of the depositors, who may happen at the time to be paying or receiving money, with the ledgers. In this way a considerable proportion of the pass-books are compared every year with the ledger, and a sufficient check is imposed upon the proceedings of the bank. It is, however, certain that some banks have not carried out this system of audit. For example, at Cardiff, with 200,000*l.* deposits, and at Macclesfield, with over 300,000*l.* deposits, no audit of the kind mentioned was in force. Moreover, the insignificant amounts paid for audit by some of the banks, as given in the annual Returns, tend to show that such a system of audit does not exist in these banks.

From the evidence given before the Committee it appears that the audit, where not continuous, is often of a very unsatisfactory character. It consists chiefly, if not wholly, of an examination of the totals of the ledgers and other accounts with the amount of money sent to the National Debt Commissioners, or in hand.

Your Committee are unwilling to lay down any precise rule as to how the audit should be conducted. But there is a consensus of opinion on the part of the witnesses, in which your Committee fully concur, that no audit which is not continuous, and which does not include a comparison of a certain proportion of the pass-books with the ledgers, of the cash-book with the ledgers, and of the yearly extracted list of balances with the ledgers, is of much value, and that in every case an audit including such comparisons ought to be undertaken.

The question then arises by whom such audit should be carried out. It has been suggested in some quarters that it should be undertaken by the Government through the National Debt Commissioners. Your Committee, however, think that this duty could not be so undertaken without the Government, in fact, making itself practically responsible to the depositors, and without altering altogether the relations of these banks to the Government, and making them practically a branch of the public service as much as the Post Office banks. They cannot recommend this.

Your Committee are, however, of opinion, that the trustees and managers should be expressly empowered and advised to form a perfectly independent board of audit for all affiliated banks, and be authorised to apply part of the surplus funds for this purpose. With a view of making this as efficient as possible, your Committee recommend that the board consist of six or seven persons of well-known position and responsibility, who shall not be paid officers of trustee savings banks; that it have power to appoint in each locality, as it sees fit, professional accountants as auditors, in such a way as to secure that the Savings Bank Acts are carried out in every particular, and to secure a continuous audit and a continuous examination, at uncertain times, of the pass-books and their comparison with the ledgers. That the board of audit have authority to move the Treasury to appoint a commission, under the Act of 1887, to examine into any bank when it thinks fit. That the remuneration of the board and its expenses of audit be defrayed by contributions from the banks, and that the scale of payments and expenses be regulated by the National Debt Commissioners, who, your Committee recommend, should be empowered to take steps to initiate, with the trustees, such a board of audit, and to frame a general scheme for its working.

There is another point in connection with the security afforded to the depositors to which the Committee desire to advert. It is evident that depositors must be greatly influenced by the character of the names appearing as trustees and managers of the banks. From a Return before your Committee, printed by order of the House in 1887, there is some reason to think that the names of gentlemen are retained in these capacities after they have become unable, from ill-health, removal from the locality, or other causes, to make themselves personally acquainted with the management of the banks.

Your Committee think that some actual discharge of the duties of trustee or manager should be a condition of the name being retained as such.

Another point of importance which has been brought before your Committee is the investment of money by the savings banks otherwise than through the National Debt Commissioners. Under Section 16 of the Act of 1863 the savings banks are empowered to receive money from depositors in excess of the limit imposed by the Act for the purpose of investment in other securities than through the National Debt Commissioners. At the time of the passing of the Act there was only one bank which took money from depositors in this manner. There are now 18, and the amount of money so invested has risen to no less a sum than 4,061,000*l.* The Glasgow Bank has invested above 500,000*l.* under this clause; the Liverpool Bank, 472,000 *l.*; the Bradford Bank, 711,000 *l.*

For the most part these savings are invested in corporation bonds, in loans to local school boards and other local authorities, returning a rather higher rate of interest than consols, but in the case of the Bradford Bank 292,000 *l.* has been lent on mortgage of freehold house property; in the case of the Perth Bank, 250,000 *l.* has been lent on heritable bonds; and in the Perth Bank and Dundee Bank, 63,000 *l.* and 27,000 *l.* have been deposited at interest with Scotch banks.

These investments do not come under the review of the National Debt Commissioners, and your Committee think that a very heavy responsibility is incurred by trustees by investments of this character.

It appears that certain of the trustee banks have been in the habit of using the words "Government Security," "National Security," "Government Savings Banks," or similar designations, in their books, notices, circulars, balance-sheets, or other publications in connection with these banks. It cannot be too widely known that the use of such words is totally unauthorised and misleading, and that the Government is responsible only for such moneys as are transmitted to the National Debt Commissioners from time to time; and they would therefore recommend that every depositor's pass-book shall have clearly printed upon the cover a notification that Government is in no way responsible or liable to depositors for moneys placed in the safe keeping of such banks.

At the last moment, before considering their Report, your Committee have received the interim Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Treasury, under 50 & 51 Vict. c. 47, to inquire into the affairs of the Macclesfield Savings Bank. From this Report it appears that for seven years past (if not longer) a junior clerk, named Rackham, has been able to appropriate annually considerable sums from the funds of the bank, amounting in the aggregate to about 4,000 *l.* He effected this in a variety of fraudulent ways, chiefly by tampering with the pass-books, receiving money from depositors without corresponding entries in the ledgers, paying money to himself indirectly on fictitious pass-books, and by falsifying the liabilities of the bank at the end of each year, in order to cover the amount he appropriated. He could not have done this without the greatest negligence and incompetence of nearly every other person connected with the bank; of the trustees, who took no pains whatever to see that the provisions of the Savings Bank Acts were complied with; of the actuary, who allowed entries to be made by Rackham in the pass-books without the double check required by the Statute; and of the auditor, who appears to have admitted his incompetency. The examination of the pass-books with the ledgers was entirely dispensed with. Had this been observed, the Commissioner reports that it would have been very difficult for Rackham to manipulate the pass-books.

Your Committee have been fortified by this case in their view that the present control by the National Debt Commissioners is of little real value in checking such frauds; and that the remedy for them is to be found in an improved and independent system of audit, including the periodic examination of a considerable proportion of the pass-books.

2 August 1889.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Thursday, 4th April 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. David Thomas.

Mr. Howell.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Monday, 8th April 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE in the Chair.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Barbour.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Howell.

Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. David Thomas.

Mr. *William Taylor* was examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Thursday, 11th April 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE in the Chair.

Sir John Dorington.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Barbour.

Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. John Ellis.

Mr. *William Tulyor* was further examined.

Mr. *Eustace Booker* was examined.

[Adjourned till Monday, 6th May, at Twelve o'clock.]

Monday, 6th May 1889

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE in the Chair.

Mr. James Campbell.
Sir John Kennaway.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.

Mr. David Thomas.
Mr. Barbour.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Mowbray.

Mr. *William Meikle*, Mr. *John Rayner*, and Mr. Alderman *W. Rayment*, were examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Thursday, 9th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE in the Chair.

Sir John Dorington.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Barbour.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. James Campbell
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.

Sir *Charles Rivers Wilson*, K.C.M.G., Mr. *Lewes Andrews*, and Mr. *William Bryham Roper*, were examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday the 16th, at Twelve o'clock.]

Thursday, 16th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE in the Chair.

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. James Campbell.

Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. David Thomas.
Mr. Barbour.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Kenrick.

Mr. *Howell* (a Member of the Committee) and Mr. *Bartley* (a Member of the Committee) were examined.

Rev. *A. S. Page* and Mr. *W. F. B. Eyre* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, 23rd July, at Twelve o'clock.]

Tuesday, 23rd July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE in the Chair.

Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Bartley.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. David Thomas.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley,
Mr. James Campbell.
Sir John Kennaway.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Draft Report proposed by the Chairman be read the first time.

Amendment proposed, to leave out "Draft," to the end of the Question, in order to add the following words: "Consideration of the Draft Report proposed by the Chairman be postponed for the purpose of taking further evidence"—(Mr. *Howell*).—Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Tuesday, 30th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE in the Chair.

Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. James Campbell.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Kenrick.

Mr. Howell.
Sir John Kennaway.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. David Thomas.

DRAFT REPORT, proposed by the *Chairman*, read the first time, as follows:—

"1. **YOUR** Committee was appointed to inquire into and report (1) on the administration of the trustees savings banks under the Trustees Savings Banks Act, 1863; (2) the powers, duties, and liabilities of the trustees, managers, and officers of trustees savings banks; (3) the relation of trustee savings banks to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and other offices or departments of the Government, so far as these relations affect the internal management of the affairs of the said banks, and of the alleged assumption by certain trustees savings banks of designations calculated to mislead depositors.

"2. Your Committee do not think it necessary to review the early history of legislation affecting trustees savings banks. An interesting account of this, drawn up some years ago by Mr. J. M. Ludlow, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, for the Royal Commission on Friendly Societies, will be found in the Appendix. For the purposes of this, the present inquiry, it is not necessary to go further back than the year 1860, when the Post Office savings banks were constituted, and the year 1863, when an Act was passed consolidating all previous legislation affecting trustees savings banks, and making some important changes in the law relating to them.

"3. At this time the trustees savings banks numbered 622, with 1,558,000 depositors, and deposits amounting to 40,563,000 *l.* A very few new banks have since then been created, while a very large number then existing have been wound up. The present number is 400, with 1,604,000 depositors, and 47,262,000 *l.* of deposits. These figures show that while nearly one bank out of three has ceased to exist, those that have continued have largely increased their number of depositors and their transactions.

"4. In the same time the number of depositors in the Post Office savings banks have increased to a total of 3,951,000, with deposits amounting to 53,974,000 *l.* The average deposit at the trustees savings banks is 29 *l.* 9 *s.* 1 *d.*, and that at the Post Office is 13 *l.* 13 *s.* 1 *d.* It appears also that a very large number of charitable societies, friendly societies, and penny banks have deposits at the trustees savings banks, and that the number is increasing rather than diminishing. In 1887 the number of charitable societies was 15,861, with funds amounting to 759,000 *l.*; of friendly societies 14,342, with funds 2,500,000 *l.*; and of penny banks 2,000, with 109,000 *l.* The interest allowed by the Government on money in their hands, belonging to the trustees savings banks was, till lately, 3 *l.* per cent., but last year it was reduced to 2 *l.* 15 *s.* The interest allowed by the banks to the depositors has till lately varied from 2 *l.* 10 *s.*, to 2 *l.* 15 *s.*, and is now being reduced in proportion to the reduction of the interest allowed by the Government.

"5. The banks which have been closed have with a few exceptions been those with a very small amount of deposits, and where the trustees have not felt interested in maintaining their banks in view of the facilities offered by the Post Office. There has, however, been closed a few of the larger banks, such as the Birmingham Savings Bank, with deposits amounting to 600,000 *l.*, and the Bristol Bank, with deposits of 370,000 *l.* During the course of the inquiry by your Committee, 17 more banks have been closed, and 14 others are in course of closing. It appears that this movement is due not to the fact of the inquiry by your Committee, but to the fact that trustees have in many cases been alarmed by the disclosures of the Cardiff Bank, and the probable liability which might attach to them individually in the event of loss by mismanagement of their banks. It may be that this tendency towards the closing of the smaller banks will go further, and that their deposits will be transferred to the Post Office savings banks.

"6. The evidence before your Committee tends to show that while in the case of the smaller banks, which are open for a few hours only in each week (and there are 136 banks which are open on an average of only two hours a-week, and 22 which are only open once a fortnight), such institutions do not afford facilities equal to those of the Post Office savings banks, yet the larger banks, or especially those which are open every day of the week (and these number 27), compete on very favourable terms with the Post Office.

"7. The managers of such institutions, it is alleged, are better able to accommodate their methods of business to the wants of their depositors than can the Post Office officials with their more rigid rules. The trustees savings banks, for instance, while retaining the legal right to require notice before any depositor withdraws his money, in practice allow them to withdraw either the whole or a large part of the deposit without any notice, or upon single application. On the other hand, withdrawal can only be made from the Post Office savings banks after notice, by a special application accompanied by the pass-book, which has to be forwarded to London; and a delay of three or four days generally takes place before the depositor can obtain his money. It is also said that the greater secrecy of the trustees savings banks is much appreciated by large classes of depositors, who do not like to have letters addressed to them by the central office, disclosing the fact that there is a deposit standing in their names.

"8. From whatever cause, it is certain that in the large towns, such as Manchester, Glasgow, and Hull, where the trustees savings banks have existed for many years, and have gained the confidence of the people, there is a marked preference for those banks over the Post Office banks. It appears, therefore, that there is room for both Trustees and Post Office savings banks, and your Committee, while thinking it probable that many of the smaller trustees banks may be merged in the Post Office, cannot contemplate the general disappearance of such banks, nor can they advise any course which would hasten their winding up.

"9. It becomes, therefore, all the more important to consider whether the banks as now constituted and managed afford a reasonable security to the depositors.

"10. It cannot be too widely known and appreciated that the Government is not responsible for the solvency of the Trustees savings banks. It is responsible only for so much of the money deposited in these banks as is forwarded to the Bank of England by the trustees. But there are no means of knowing whether these sums represent the total deposits, or whether the provisions of the Savings Bank Acts are actually and properly carried out.

"11. The savings banks are bound to transmit weekly to the National Debt Commissioners statements of their receipts and payments, and the amount transmitted to or drawn from the Bank of England; also yearly statements of their accounts. The National Debt Commissioners are also empowered to call upon the savings banks to render accounts of their expenses and cost of management.

"12. The National Debt Commissioners, by virtue of these powers, have considered that they are justified in calling upon the trustees of individual banks to explain any excessive expenditure upon management, and have in some cases disallowed items of expenditure which have seemed to them to be illegitimate. It is doubtful, however, whether those powers extend so far as this. These powers of calling for accounts and of questioning items of expenditure go very little way towards securing the good management or the solvency of these institutions.

"13. In the case of the Cardiff Bank, where serious defalcations occurred, and where there was gross negligence on the part of the trustees of all the main directions of the Act of 1863, the accounts laid before the National Debt Commissioners were in perfect order; it was considered a model bank, and there was nothing in the accounts for 10 years past which threw any doubt upon its state.

"14. A more

"14. A more important provision affecting these banks and the National Debt Commissioners was contained in 'The Trustees' Savings Banks Act of 1887,' which provided 'that the Treasury might, if satisfied, on the representation either of such a number of the depositors in any trustee savings bank as appears to them sufficient, or of the Commissioners of the National Debt, that there is good reason for causing an examination to be made into the affairs of any bank, apply *ex parte* to any Judge of the High Court of Justice, who, if satisfied that such examination is desirable, may thereupon appoint a member of the Supreme Court of Judicature and a barrister of not less than seven years' standing as a commission to hold a local inquiry into the affairs of such bank, and to report thereon.'

"15. The Act was passed in order to institute an inquiry into the affairs of the Carliff Bank. It will be seen that the provision is a somewhat cumbrous one; it necessitates the National Debt Commissioners, the Treasury, and a Judge of the Supreme Court being set in motion. It is a measure under which proceedings can be taken only when the bank is in an embarrassed condition. It is obvious that such proceedings would compel the winding up of such bank even if it should turn out that it was perfectly solvent. What is desirable is that there should be reasonable security that the banks should not get into a condition when inquiries of this kind become necessary.

"16. During the last 26 years there have been a certain number of cases in which serious defalcations have been discovered in the case of trustee savings banks. Thus, in the year 1878 defalcations were discovered in the Epsom Savings Bank; in 1879 in the Alnwick, in the Thame Bank, and Newark Bank; in 1886 in the Cardiff Bank; in 1887 in the Bishop Stortford, Chertsey, and Sevenoaks Banks.

"17. It does not appear that in any of these cases there was ultimate loss to the depositors, save in that of the Cardiff Bank, which is still in liquidation. With this exception the trustees ultimately succeeded in making good any deficiency which the winding up of the banks disclosed.

"18. In the Cardiff Bank, however, where the defalcations reached a very serious amount, the trustees have disputed their liability, and the matter is still *sub judice*. In this case all the directions of the Act of 1863 with respect to the deposits and withdrawals of money and the checks by trustees, were habitually disregarded; large sums were received and paid after office hours; the limit of deposits allowed by the Act was exceeded in numerous cases; the audit was of a most perfunctory character, and the pass-books were never compared with the ledgers. It resulted that the actuary was able to appropriate the funds of the bank by not entering in the ledger the full sums paid in by depositors; by entering in the ledger sums which were not paid to the depositors; and these fraudulent transactions were carried on over many years resulting in a loss to the bank of 37,000 *l*. These frauds could not have taken place if the trustees had performed the duties prescribed by the Act, or if the audit had been a proper one, or if the pass-books had been occasionally compared with the ledgers.

"19. Whether their failure and neglect was such as to render them liable to the depositors for the deficiency in the funds caused by the defalcations of the officer of the bank is a question which is still *sub judice*. The Act of 1863, s. 11, provides that no trustee of any savings bank shall be personally liable except,—

"(1.) For moneys actually received by him on account of or for the use of such savings bank, and not paid over and disposed of in the manner directed by the rules of the savings bank.

"(2.) For neglect or omission in complying with the rules and regulations required by the Act, to be adopted as hereinbefore is provided, in the maintenance of checks, the audit and examination of accounts, the holding of meetings and keeping of accounts.

"(3.) And also for neglect and omission in taking security from officers, as is hereinbefore provided.

"20. It is impossible for your Committee to express a confident opinion as to what is the limit of liability of trustees and managers of savings banks under this section until the legal questions involved in the winding up of the Cardiff Bank and the claims made against the trustees are finally decided by the courts of law. If it should turn out that the trustees in that bank are legally responsible for the defalcations of the actuary, the decision may have a very important effect upon the general position of trustees of such banks, and may tend to induce many trustees to withdraw from these institutions through fear of liability, or to promote measures for winding up the banks with which they are connected.

"21. If, on the other hand, it should turn out that there is no liability on the part of the trustees of the Cardiff Bank, it is to be feared that there will be a general sense of insecurity on the part of depositors in trustee savings banks, for it will appear that trustees may grossly neglect their duties, may disregard all the directions of the Act of 1863, and may negligently stand by while the actuary is committing fraud, without any remedy to the depositors or any sufficient security against such proceedings in other cases.

"22. On looking carefully into the provisions of the Act of 1863, your Committee are of opinion that, if these provisions are carefully and accurately carried out, there would be little danger of any loss through negligence or fraud. The point at which danger occurs is the receipt and payment of money from and to the depositors and the due entry of these receipts and payments in the pass-books of the depositors and in the ledgers of the banks. The defalcations which have occurred have
0.71. generally,

generally, if not always, taken the form of some officer of the bank taking money from a depositor and not entering the receipt of it in the bank ledger, or, on the other hand, making an entry of a payment to a depositor in the ledger differing from that actually made and entered in the pass-book of the depositor.

Section 6. "23. The Act of 1863 provides against this by requiring 'that not less than two persons, being
Sub-section 2. 'either trustees, managers, or paid officers appointed for that specific purpose, or where two only, 'except in the case of savings banks which are opened for more than six hours in any week, one 'such person shall be a trustee or manager, be present on all occasions of public business, and be 'parties to any transaction of deposit or payment, so as to form at least a double check on any such 'transaction with depositors.

Sub-section 3. "That the depositor's pass-book shall be compared with the ledger on every transaction of re-
'payment, and on its first production at the bank after each twentieth day of November.

Sub-section 4. "That every depositor shall once at least in every year cause his deposit book to be produced at
'the office of the bank for the purpose of being examined.'

"24. In the smaller banks, which are not open for more than six hours a week, and where the trustees carry out fully these directions, there is practically a check upon every transaction by a person independently of the officer of the bank who receives or pays the money. Where, however, the trustees neglect to perform this duty, or where, in larger banks, the duty is left to two officers, it may well be that there is not sufficient check against negligence or fraud.

"25. In larger banks, where the trustees are unable to give a continuous attendance, this necessary check is practically supplied by means of a continuous audit. The auditor has the power of entering the bank at any time of the day, and of comparing the pass-books of the depositors, who may happen at the time to be paying or receiving money, with the ledgers. In this way a considerable proportion of the pass-books are compared every year with the ledger, and a sufficient check is imposed upon the proceedings of the bank.

"26. From the evidence given before the Committee it appears that the audit of the smaller banks is of a very much less satisfactory character. It consists chiefly, if not wholly, of an examination of the totals of the ledgers and other accounts with the amount of money sent to the National Debt Commissioners, or in hand. It does, as in the case of Macclesfield, not involve any comparison between the pass-books of the depositors and the ledgers.

"27. There is concurrence of opinion on the part of the witnesses, in which your Committee fully concur, that no audit which does not involve a comparison of a certain proportion of the pass-books with the ledgers is of much value, and that in every case an audit involving to some extent such a comparison ought to be undertaken.

"28. The question then arises by whom such audit should be carried out. It has been suggested in some quarters that it should be undertaken by the Government through the National Debt Commissioners. Your Committee, however, think that this duty could not be so undertaken without the Government, in fact, making itself practically responsible to the depositors, and without altering altogether the relations of these banks to the Government, and making them practically a branch of the public service as much as the Post Office banks. They cannot recommend this, nor can they advise that the powers of the National Debt Commissioners should be extended.

"29. They think, however, that the trustees themselves may be brought to see the expediency, and, indeed, necessity of improving their system of audit. It appears that already a large number of the savings banks have become members of an association for mutual advice and protection, and your Committee are informed that this association is quite prepared to undertake the duty either of auditing the banks, or of seeing that an effective continuous audit is carried out, on payment of a small annual contribution from the savings banks.

"30. Your Committee, therefore, are of opinion that the trustees of the existing banks should be advised to join in an arrangement of this kind; and they feel little doubt that when the trustees appreciate the importance of the question, if it only be with a view to limiting their own liability, they will adopt this course.

"31. In the event of their refusing or neglecting to do so it may be necessary to consider what measures Parliament should take, and it may be that it will be advisable that the National Debt Commissioners should be empowered to refuse to take over money from banks in respect of which they are not satisfied that there is a sufficient system of audit. Your Committee, however, are unwilling to recommend this course until it will be seen what is the voluntary action of trustees after the publication of the Evidence and Report of your Committee.

"32. Another point of importance which has been brought before your Committee is the investment of money by the savings banks otherwise than through the National Debt Commissioners. Under Section 16 of the Act of 1863 the savings banks are empowered to receive money from depositors in excess of the limit imposed by the Act for the purpose of investment in other securities than through the National Debt Commissioners. At the time of the passing of the Act there was only one bank which took money from depositors in this manner. There are now 18, and the amount of money so invested has risen to no less a sum than 4,061,000*l*. The Glasgow Bank has invested above 500,000*l*. under this clause; the Liverpool Bank, 472,000*l*.; the Bradford Bank, 711,000*l*.

"33. For

"33. For the most part these savings are invested in corporation bonds, in loans to local school boards and other local authorities, returning a rather higher rate of interest than consols, but in the case of the Bradford Bank 292,000*l.* has been lent on mortgage of freehold house property; in the case of the Perth Bank, 250,000*l.* has been lent on charitable bonds; and in the Perth Bank and Dundee Bank, 63,000*l.* and 27,000*l.* have been deposited at interest with Scotch banks.

"34. These investments do not come under the review of the National Debt Commissioners. Your Committee feel some doubt whether, now that such facilities are given through the savings banks for individual investments of small amount in consols, and now that the interest on corporation loans is so much reduced, it is necessary to continue the authorisation of such transactions by the savings banks. They think, at all events, that such investments ought to be limited to corporation loans and loans to other local authorities; they do not think that loans should be made on house property. They have no reason to doubt the judgment and practical security with which the mortgages on such property have been effected by the trustees of the Bradford Bank, where no loss has been incurred, although the transactions have been very numerous and spread over a number of years. Your Committee, however, think that a very heavy responsibility is imposed on trustees by such transactions; they are more nearly connected with the business of building societies. They are not such as your Committee would recommend to be generally adopted by other savings banks.

DRAFT REPORT, proposed by Mr. Howell, read the first time, as follows:

"1. YOUR Committee was appointed to inquire into and report (1) on the administration of the trustee savings banks under the Trustee Savings Banks Act, 1863; (2) the powers, duties, and liabilities of the trustees, managers, and officers of trustee savings banks; (3) the relation of trustee savings banks to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and other officers or departments of the Government, so far as these relations affect the internal management of the affairs of the said banks, and of the alleged assumption by certain trustee savings banks of designations calculated to mislead depositors.

"2. Your Committee have felt some delicacy in inquiring into the alleged mal-administration of existing banks, which are going concerns, or generally into the affairs of those which are thought to be in an unsatisfactory condition. The only few witnesses called, therefore, have been from banks which have never been alleged to be insolvent or mismanaged; the Committee desiring to depend rather upon such evidence as could be extracted from official sources, namely, from the National Debt Commissioners, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and Mr. E. Lyulph Stanley, the Commissioner appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Cardiff Bank. In all other respects the Committee have relied upon official documents and returns, such as those presented annually to Parliament, the Report of the Cardiff Inquiry, and more recently the Report of the Commissioner appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Macclesfield Bank.

"3. Your Committee do not think it necessary to review the early history of legislation affecting trustee savings banks. An interesting account of this, drawn up some years ago by Mr. J. M. Ludlow, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, for the Royal Commission on Friendly Societies, will be found in the Appendix. For the purposes of this, the present inquiry, it is not necessary to go further back than the year 1861, when the Post Office savings banks were constituted, and the year 1863, when an Act was passed consolidating all previous legislation affecting trustee savings banks, and making some important changes in the law relating to them.

"4. At that time the trustee savings banks numbered 622, with 1,558,000 depositors, and deposits amounting to 40,563,000*l.* Very few new banks have since then been created, while a very large number then existing have been wound up. The present number is 348, with 1,500,000 deposit accounts, and a total of 45,098,733*l.* as deposits.

"5. In the same time the number of depositors in the Post Office savings banks have increased to a total of 4,220,927, with deposits amounting to 61,943,096*l.* The average deposits at the trustee savings banks is 29*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, and that at the Post Office is 13*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* It appears also that a very large number of charitable societies, friendly societies, and penny banks have deposits at the trustee savings banks. In 1887 the number of charitable societies was 15,861, with funds amounting to 759,000*l.*; of friendly societies 14,342, with funds 2,500,000*l.*; and of penny banks 2,000, with 109,000*l.* The interest allowed by the Government on money in their hands belonging to the trustee savings banks was, till lately, 3*l.* per cent., but last year it was reduced to 2*l.* 15*s.* The interest allowed by the banks to the depositors has till lately varied from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 2*l.* 15*s.*, and is now being reduced in proportion to the reduction of the interest allowed by the Government.

"6. The banks which have been closed have, until recently, with a few exceptions, been those with a comparatively small amount of deposits, and where the trustees have not felt interested in maintaining their banks in view of the facilities offered by the Post Office. There has, however, been closed a few of the larger banks, such as the Birmingham Savings Bank with deposits amounting to 600,000*l.*, the Bristol Bank with deposits of 570,000*l.*, and also the important banks at Southwark, Oxford, Salisbury, Lancaster, Hereford, Macclesfield, and Dorchester. In nearly

all those cases the total deposits amounted to 100,000 £. During the course of the inquiry by your Committee, 50 more banks have been closed, or are in course of closing. It appears that this movement is due not to the fact of the inquiry by your Committee, but to the fact that trustees have in many cases been alarmed by the disclosures of the Cardiff Bank, and the probable liability which might attach to them individually in the event of loss by mismanagement of their banks. It may be that this tendency towards the closing of banks will go further, and that their deposits will be transferred to the Post Office savings banks.

"7. The evidence before your Committee tends to show that while in the case of the smaller banks, which are open for a few hours only in each week, such institutions do not afford facilities equal to those of the Post Office savings banks, yet the larger banks, or especially those which are open every day of the week, compete on very favourable terms with the Post Office. It should here be noted, however, that of the 281 banks remaining open on the 20th of November 1887, in England and Wales, only 24 were open daily, on an average of 25 hours per week; 37 were open on three or more days, for an average of 10 hours weekly; 71 were open on two days in the week, on an average only of four hours weekly; while 129 banks were only open on one day in the week, on an average of two hours per week; and 20 were only open once a fortnight or once a month, on an average of one hour per week. So that more than one-half the total number were open from one to two hours per week only.

"8. From whatever cause, it is certain that in some large towns where the trustee savings banks have existed for many years, and have retained the confidence of the people, there is a preference for those banks over the Post Office banks. It appears, therefore, that there is room for both Trustee and Post Office savings banks, and your Committee, while thinking it probable that many of the smaller trustee banks may be merged in the Post Office, cannot contemplate the general disappearance of such banks, nor can they advise any course which would hasten their winding up.

"9. It becomes, therefore, all the more important to consider whether the banks as now constituted and managed afford a reasonable security to the depositors.

"10. It cannot be too widely known and appreciated that the Government is not responsible for the solvency of the trustee savings banks. It is responsible only to the trustees for so much of the money deposited in these banks as is forwarded to the Bank of England by the trustees. But there are no means of knowing whether these sums represent the total deposits, or whether the provisions of the Savings Bank Acts are actually and properly carried out. Nor have the depositors any guarantee against the misapplication of the money withdrawn by the trustees. In the Cardiff case, for example, deposits were withdrawn by the trustees from the National Debt Commissioners, and were used by them to resist the legal claims of the depositors, both before the Registrar of Friendly Societies and before the High Court of Justice, the money being thus spent in litigation and otherwise.

"11. The savings banks are bound to transmit weekly to the National Debt Commissioners statements of their receipts and payments, and the amount transmitted to or drawn from the Bank of England; also yearly statements of their accounts. But the National Debt Commissioners have no means whatever of knowing whether the statements so rendered, weekly or yearly, are accurate, except as to the amounts transmitted or withdrawn; or whether they truly represent the real condition of the bank, as to either assets or liabilities.

"12. The National Debt Commissioners are also empowered to call upon the savings banks to render accounts of their expenses and cost of management. By virtue of these powers they have considered that they are justified in calling upon the trustees of individual banks to explain any excessive expenditure upon management, and have in some cases disallowed items of expenditure which have seemed to them to be illegitimate. It is doubtful, however, whether those powers extend so far as this. These powers of calling for accounts and of questioning items of expenditure go very little way towards securing the good management or the solvency of these institutions.

"13. In the case of the Cardiff Bank, where serious defalcations occurred, and where there was gross negligence on the part of the trustees of all the main directions of the Act of 1863, the accounts laid before the National Debt Commissioners were in perfect order; it was considered a model bank, and there was nothing in the accounts for 10 years past which threw any doubt upon its state.

"14. A more important provision affecting these banks and the National Debt Commissioners was contained in 'The Trustee Savings Banks Act of 1887,' which provided 'that the Treasury might, if satisfied, on the representation either of such a number of the depositors in any trustee savings bank as appears to them sufficient, or of the Commissioners of the National Debt, that there is good reason for causing an examination to be made into the affairs of any bank, apply *ex parte* to any Judge of the High Court of Justice, who, if satisfied that such examination is desirable, may thereupon appoint a member of the Supreme Court of Judicature and a barrister of not less than seven years' standing as a commission to hold a local inquiry into the affairs of such bank, and to report thereon.'

"15. The Act was passed primarily in order to institute an inquiry into the affairs of the Cardiff Bank. It will be seen that the provision is a somewhat cumbrous one; it necessitates the National Debt Commissioners, the Treasury, and a Judge of the Supreme Court being set in motion. It is
a measure

a measure under which proceedings can be taken only when the bank is in an embarrassed condition. It is obvious that such proceedings would compel the winding up of such bank even if it should turn out that it was perfectly solvent. What is desirable is that there should be reasonable security that the banks should not get into a condition when inquiries of this kind become necessary.

"16. During the last 26 years there have been a certain number of cases in which serious defalcations have been discovered in the case of trustee savings banks. Thus, in the year 1878 defalcations were discovered in the Epsom Savings Bank; in 1879 in the Alnwick, in the Thame Bank, and Newark Bank; in 1886 in the Cardiff Bank; in 1887 in the Bishop Stortford, Chertsey, and Sevenoaks Banks; and in 1888-89 in the Macclesfield and Dorchester Banks.

"17. Your Committee have no definite information as to whether in any of these cases there was ultimate loss to the depositors, save in that of the Cardiff Bank, which is still in liquidation. It is probable that in most cases any deficiency which the winding up of the banks disclosed was made good, either by the trustees, by public subscription, or by using the Separate Surplus Fund in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners, which 'has arisen from the past and present bounty of the State in the matter of interest paid, by way of subsidy, to trustee savings banks.' In the Cardiff Bank, however, where the defalcations reached a very serious amount, the trustees have disputed their liability, and the matter is still *sub judice*.

"18. In this case all the directions of the Act of 1863 with respect to the deposits and withdrawals of money and the checks by trustees, were habitually disregarded; large sums were received and paid after office hours; the limit of deposits allowed by the Act was exceeded in numerous cases; the audit was of a most perfunctory character, and the pass-books were never compared with the ledgers. It resulted that the actuary was able to appropriate the funds of the bank by not entering in the ledger the full sums paid in by depositors; by entering in the ledger sums which were not paid to the depositors; and these fraudulent transactions were carried on over many years resulting in a loss to the bank of 37,000 *l*. These frauds could not have taken place if the trustees had performed the duties prescribed by the Act, or if the audit had been a proper one, or if the pass-books had been occasionally compared with the ledgers.

"19. Whether their failure and neglect was such as to render them liable to the depositors for the deficiency in the funds caused by the defalcations of the officer of the bank is a question which is still *sub judice*. The Act of 1863, s. 11, provides that no trustee of any savings bank shall be personally liable except,—

"(1.) For moneys actually received by him on account of or for the use of such savings bank, and not paid over and disposed of in the manner directed by the rules of the savings bank.

"(2.) For neglect or omission in complying with the rules and regulations required by the Act, to be adopted as hereinbefore is provided, in the maintenance of checks, the audit and examination of accounts, the holding of meetings and keeping of accounts.

"(3.) And also for neglect and omission in taking security from officers, as is hereinbefore provided.

"20. It is impossible for your Committee to express a confident opinion as to what is the limit of liability of trustees and managers of savings banks under this section until the legal questions involved in the winding up of the Cardiff Bank and the claims made against the trustees are finally decided by the courts of law. If it should turn out that the trustees in that bank are legally responsible for the defalcations of the actuary, the decision may have a very important effect upon the general position of trustees of such banks, and may tend to induce many trustees to withdraw from these institutions through fear of liability, or to promote measures for winding up the banks with which they are connected.

"21. If, on the other hand, it should turn out that there is no liability on the part of the trustees of the Cardiff Bank, it is to be feared that there will be a general sense of insecurity on the part of depositors in trustee savings banks, for it will appear that trustees may grossly neglect their duties, may disregard all the directions of the Act of 1863, and may negligently stand by while the actuary is committing fraud, without any remedy to the depositors or any sufficient security against such proceedings in other cases.

"22. On looking carefully into the provisions of the Act of 1863, your Committee are of opinion that, if these provisions are fully, carefully, and accurately carried out, there would be little danger of any loss through negligence or fraud. The point at which danger occurs is the receipt and payment of money from and to the depositors and the due entry of these receipts and payments in the pass-books of the depositors and in the ledgers of the banks. The defalcations which have occurred have generally, if not always, taken the form of some officer of the bank taking money from a depositor and not entering the receipt of it in the bank ledger, or, on the other hand, making an entry of a payment to a depositor in the ledger differing from that actually made and entered in the pass-book of the depositor.

"23. The Act of 1863 provides against this by requiring 'that not less than two persons, being either trustees, managers, or paid officers appointed for that specific purpose, or where two only, except in the case of savings banks which are opened for more than six hours in any week, one

Section 6.
Sub-section 2.

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c

' such

' such person shall be a trustee or manager, shall be present on all occasions of public business, and
' be parties to any transaction of deposit or payment, so as to form at least a double check on any
' such transaction with depositors.

Sub-section 3. " ' That the depositor's pass-book shall be compared with the ledger on every transaction of
' repayment, and on its first production at the bank after each 20th day of November.

Sub-section 4. " ' That every depositor shall once at least in every year cause his deposit book to be produced at
' the office of the bank for the purpose of being examined.'

" 24. In banks where the trustees carry out fully these directions, there is practically a check upon every transaction by a person independently of the officer of the bank who receives or pays the money. Where, however, the trustees neglect to perform this duty, or where the duty is left to two officers, it may well be that there is not sufficient check against negligence or fraud.

" 25. In the larger banks, where the trustees are unable to give a continuous attendance, this necessary check is supposed to be supplied by means of a continuous audit. The auditor has, it is alleged, the power of entering the bank at any time of the day, and of comparing the pass-books of the depositors, who may happen at the time to be paying or receiving money, with the ledgers. In this way a considerable proportion of the pass-books can be compared every year with the ledger, and a sufficient check may thereby be imposed upon the proceedings of the bank. It is, however, certain that many of the larger banks do not carry out this system of audit. The example, at Cardiff, with 200,000 *l.* deposits, and at Macclesfield, with over 300,000 *l.* deposits, no audit of the kind mentioned was in force. Moreover, the insignificant amounts paid for audit by many of the larger banks, as given in the annual Returns, tend to show that such a system of audit does not exist in such banks.

" 26. From the evidence given before the Committee it appears that the audit of the smaller banks is of a very unsatisfactory character. It consists chiefly, if not wholly, of an examination of the totals of the ledgers and other accounts with the amount of money sent to the National Debt Commissioners, or in hand. It does not involve any comparison between the pass-books of the depositors and the ledgers, and sometimes, as in the case of Macclesfield, not even of the cash-book and ledgers.

" 27. There is a consensus of opinion on the part of the witnesses, in which your Committee fully concur, that no audit which is not continuous, and which does not involve a comparison of a certain proportion of the pass-books with the ledgers, of the cash-book with the ledgers, and of the yearly extracted list of balances with the ledgers, is of much value, and that in every case an audit involving such comparisons ought to be undertaken.

" 28. The question then arises by whom such audit should be carried out. It has been suggested in some quarters that it should be undertaken by the Government through the National Debt Commissioners. Your Committee, however, think that this duty could not be so undertaken without the Government, in fact, making itself practically responsible to the depositors, and without altering altogether the relations of these banks to the Government, and making them practically a branch of the public service as much as the Post Office banks. They cannot recommend this, inasmuch as most of the witnesses examined expressed the opinion, in which your Committee fully concur, that an audit to be of any practical value should be continuous. The institution of any such continuous audit by Government would be very expensive, and, indeed, scarcely practicable.

" 29. In the opinion of your Committee, the only possible way in which this most essential continuous audit could be practically carried out is by the appointment, as auditors, of persons of approved experience and ability, such as chartered accountants, or public auditors under the Friendly Societies Act and the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, living on the spot, who should act under the direction and supervision of the trustees and managers, whose duty it is, under the provisions of the Act of 1863, to see that the checks provided by law are maintained.

" 30. Your Committee, therefore, while hesitating to recommend a Government audit, which might be supposed to relieve the trustees and managers of the responsible duties imposed under the Act, think that the National Debt Commissioners should be empowered to institute an examination into the books and accounts of any trustee savings bank, at any time, without being hampered by the necessity of putting in motion the complex machinery of the Statute of 1887; and to close the account of any bank, the trustees of which fail to satisfy the Commissioners that a proper system of audit is in force.

" 31. Another point of importance which has been brought before your Committee is the investment of money by the savings banks otherwise than through the National Debt Commissioners. Under Section 16 of the Act of 1863, the savings banks are empowered to receive money from depositors in excess of the limit imposed by the Act for the purpose of investment in other securities than through the National Debt Commissioners. At the time of the passing of the Act, there was only one bank which took money from depositors in this manner. There are now 18, and the amount of money so invested has risen to no less a sum than 4,061,000 *l.* The Glasgow Bank has invested above 500,000 *l.* under this clause; the Liverpool Bank, 472,000 *l.*; the Bradford Bank, 711,000 *l.*

" 32. For

"32. For the most part these savings are invested in corporation bonds, in loans to local school boards and other local authorities, returning a rather higher rate of interest than Consols, but in the case of the Bradford Bank 292,000 *l.* has been lent on mortgage of freehold house property; in the case of the Perth Bank, 250,000 *l.* has been lent on charitable bonds; and in the Perth Bank and Dundee Bank, 63,000 *l.* and 27,000 *l.* have been deposited at interest with Scotch banks.

"33. These investments do not come under the review of the National Debt Commissioners. Your Committee feel some doubt whether, now that such facilities are given through the savings banks for individual investments of small amount in Consols, and now that the interest on corporation loans is so much reduced, it is necessary to continue the authorisation of such transactions by the savings banks. They think, at all events, that such investments ought to be limited to corporation loans and loans to other local authorities; they do not think that loans should be made on house property. They have no reason to doubt the judgment and practical security with which the mortgages on such property have been effected by the trustees of the Bradford Bank, where no loss has been incurred, although the transactions have been very numerous and spread over a number of years. Your Committee, however, think that a very heavy responsibility is imposed on trustees by such transactions; they are more nearly connected with the business of building societies. They are not such as your Committee would recommend to be generally adopted by other savings banks.

"34. It appears that a number of the trustee banks have been in the habit of using the words 'Government Security,' 'National Security,' 'Government Savings Banks,' or similar designations, in their books, notices, circulars, balance-sheets, or other publications in connection with these banks. It cannot be too widely known that the use of such words is totally unauthorised and misleading, and that the Government is responsible only for such moneys as are transmitted to the National Debt Commissioners from time to time.

"35. Your Committee have had their attention drawn to the duties and powers of the Registrar of Friendly Societies in respect of Trustee Saving Banks. It appears that the Registrar is empowered by statute to inquire into matters of dispute between the depositors and trustees; and that after hearing the evidence, as to such matters of dispute, he has power to make an award, which award, the law declares, shall be final and binding. But it appears that he has no power whatever to enforce such awards, and that it is left to the poor depositor to put the law in motion for the purpose of enforcing any award in his favour. With this knowledge, the trustees of the Cardiff Bank set at naught all the awards of the Registrar, and appealed against his decision to the High Court of Justice. In all cases the award was upheld, but the depositors have not been able, up to the present time, to enforce any one of these awards, although upheld by the High Court. The result is, that the affairs of the bank are being wound up by the expensive and tedious process of liquidation, with what results the Committee are unable to state, as the case is not yet settled.

"36. Your Committee, in conclusion, are of opinion that the Act of 1863, if properly carried out by the trustees, is, in the main, well calculated to prevent fraudulent practices in connection with trustee banks. It is, however, evident that no sufficient authority exists under the Act to ensure that its provisions are enforced. In the absence of any such authority it is absolutely necessary that the liability of trustees and managers, in the event of their neglecting to perform their duties under the Act, should be more clearly defined, and generally enforced. This duty should devolve upon the Registrar of Friendly Societies, who is already constituted the final Court of Appeal, adequate machinery being provided to secure prompt compliance with his awards."

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the DRAFT REPORT proposed by the Chairman be now read a second time, paragraph by paragraph—(The *Chairman*).—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "the Chairman," in order to insert the words "Mr. Howell," instead—(Mr. *Howell*).—Question put, That the words "the Chairman" stand part of the Question.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 10.

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Sir John Kennaway.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Noe, 1.

Mr. Howell.

Paragraph 1, amended.

Another Amendment proposed, at the end of the paragraph, to add the following words: "Your Committee have considered that they were not justified by their instructions in inquiring into the financial conditions of individual banks; they have felt there were objections to such a course even if it were open to them. They have directed their inquiry to the general system of management of the banks, and to the other points referred to in their instructions. They have taken evidence on these matters from the National Debt Commission, from the Registrar of Friendly Societies, from the Commissioner appointed to inquire into the Cardiff Bank, and from several of the larger savings

savings banks"—(The *Chairman*).—Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, to leave out from after the words "Your Committee" to the end of the Question, in order to add the following words: "have felt some delicacy in inquiring into the alleged mal-administration of existing banks, which are going concerns, or generally into the affairs of those which are thought to be in an unsatisfactory condition. The only few witnesses called, therefore, have been from banks which have never been alleged to be insolvent or mismanaged; the Committee desiring to depend rather upon such evidence as could be extracted from official sources, namely, from the National Debt Commissioners, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and Mr. E. Lyulph Stanley, the Commissioner appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Cardiff Bank. In all other respects the Committee have relied upon official documents and returns, such as those presented annually to Parliament, the Report of the Cardiff Inquiry, and more recently the Report of the Commissioner appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Macclesfield Bank"—(Mr. *Howell*).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Draft Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 11.

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Sir John Kennaway.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Noes, 2.

Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Howell.

Proposed words added.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 2—6, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 7, amended.

Question put, That the paragraph, as amended, stand part of proposed Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 12.

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Sir John Kennaway.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Noes, 2.

Mr. Howell.
Mr. David Thomas.

Paragraph 8, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 9, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 10.—Amendment made.

Another Amendment proposed, at the end of the paragraph to add the following words:—"In the Cardiff case, deposits were withdrawn by the trustees from the National Debt Commissioners, and were used by them to resist the claims of the depositors, both before the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and before the High Court of Justice, the money being thus spent in litigation and otherwise"—(Mr. *Howell*).—Question put, That those words be there added.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 6.

Mr. James Campbell.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. David Thomas.

Noes, 7.

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 11, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 12, amended.—Another Amendment proposed, at the end of the paragraph, to add the following words: "while they tend to encourage a belief that the Commissioners are responsible for

for the accuracy of the accounts"—(Mr. Bartley).—Question put, That those words be there added.
—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 9.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. David Thomas.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Noes, 4.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. Kenrick.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 13, *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 14, 15, and 16, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 17.—Amendment made.—Another Amendment proposed, after the last Amendment to insert the following words: "which has arisen from the past and present bounty of the State in the matter of interest paid by way of subsidy to trustee savings banks"—(Mr. Howell).—Question put, That those words be there inserted.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 3.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. David Thomas.

Noes, 8.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 18—19, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 20—21, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 22, amended, and *agreed to*.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Thursday, 1st August 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE in the Chair.

Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. John Ellis.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.
Mr. Whitley.

Paragraph 23, *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 24—25, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 26, amended.

Another Amendment proposed, to leave out all the words after the word "hand" to the end of paragraph—(Mr. Mowbray).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Aye, 1.
Mr. Howell.

Noes, 8.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Whitley.
• Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 27, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 28, amended.

Another Amendment proposed, to leave out from after the words "carried out" to end of the paragraph, in order to add the words, "The work is often done in a perfunctory manner, owing to the insufficiency of the funds available by the trustees and managers of these smaller banks to secure a proper audit by a thoroughly qualified accountant"—(Mr. David Thomas).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 10.

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Noe, 1.

Mr. David Thomas.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 29.

Amendment proposed, to leave out from after the words "Audit," to end of the paragraph, in order to add the words: "Your Committee are, however, of opinion that the trustees and managers should be expressly empowered and advised to form a perfectly independent board of audit for all affiliated banks, and be authorised to apply part of the surplus funds for this purpose. With a view of making this as efficient as possible, your Committee recommend that the board consist of six or seven persons of well-known position and responsibility, who shall not be paid officers of Trustees Savings Banks; that it have power to appoint in each locality as it sees fit professional accountants as auditors, in such a way as to secure that the Savings Bank Acts are carried out in every particular, and to secure a continuous audit and a continuous examination at uncertain times of the pass books and their comparison with the ledgers. That the board of audit have authority to move the Treasury to appoint a Commission, under the Act of 1887, to examine into any bank when it thinks fit. That the remuneration of the board, and its expenses of audit, be defrayed by contributions from the banks, and that the scale of payments and expenses be regulated by the National Debt Commissioners, who your Committee recommend should be empowered to take steps to initiate, with the trustees, such a board of audit, and to frame a general scheme for its working"—(Mr. Bartley).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph,—put, and *negatived*.

Question proposed, That those words be *there added*.—Amendment proposed to proposed amendment, to leave out all the words from after the words "of opinion that," to the word "ledgers," in order to insert the following words—(Mr. Howell)—instead: "The only possible way in which this most essential continuous audit could be practically carried out is, by the appointment, by the trustees and managers, as auditors, of persons of approved experience and ability, such as chartered accountants, or public auditors under the Friendly Societies Act and the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, living on the spot, who should act under the direction and supervision of the trustees and managers, whose duty it is, under the provisions of the Act of 1863, to see that the checks provided by law are maintained. Your Committee, therefore, while hesitating to recommend a Government audit, which might be supposed to relieve the trustees and managers of the responsible duties imposed under the Act, think that the National Debt Commissioners should be empowered to institute an examination into the books and accounts of any trustee savings bank, at any time, without being hampered by the necessity of putting in motion the complex machinery of the statute of 1887; and to close the account of any bank, the trustees of which fail to satisfy the Commissioners that a proper system of audit is in force."—Question put, That the words "that the Trustees" stand part of the proposed Amendment.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 6.

Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Noes, 5.

Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. David Thomas.

Proposed Amendment amended, and added.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 30—31, *disagreed to*.

Paragraph 32, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 33, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 34, amended, and *agreed to*.

New paragraph added.

Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the Draft Report:—"Your Committee have had their attention drawn to the duties and powers of the Registrar of

of Friendly Societies in respect of Trustee Saving Banks. It appears that the Registrar is empowered by statute to inquire into matters of dispute between the depositors and trustees; and that after hearing the evidence, as to such matters of dispute, he has power to make an award, which award, the law declares, shall be final and binding. But it appears that he has no power whatever to enforce such awards, and that it is left to the poor depositor to put the law in motion for the purpose of enforcing any award in his favour. With this knowledge the trustees of the Cardiff Bank set at naught all the awards of the Registrar, and appealed against his decision to the High Court of Justice. In all cases the award was upheld, but the depositors have not been able, up to the present time, to enforce any one of these awards, although upheld by the High Court. The result is, that the affairs of the bank are being wound up by the expensive and tedious process of liquidation, with what results the Committee are unable to state, as the case is not yet settled—(Mr. Howell).—Question put, That the proposed paragraph be inserted in the Report.—The Committee divided :

Aye, 1.
Mr. Howell.

Noes, 10.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. David Thomas.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the Draft Report :—"Your Committee, in conclusion, are of opinion that the Act of 1863, if properly carried out by the trustees, is, in the main, well calculated to prevent fraudulent practices in connection with trustee banks. It is, however, evident that no sufficient authority exists under the Act to ensure that its provisions are enforced. In the absence of any such authority it is absolutely necessary that the liability of trustees and managers, in the event of their neglecting to perform their duties under the Act, should be more clearly defined, and generally enforced. This duty should devolve upon the Registrar of Friendly Societies, who is already constituted the final Court of Appeal, adequate machinery being provided to secure prompt compliance with his awards—(Mr. Howell).—Question put, That this paragraph be inserted in the Report.—The Committee divided :

Aye, 1.
Mr. Howell.

Noes, 10.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. David Thomas.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Several new paragraphs added.

Question, That this Report, as amended, be the Report of the Committee to the House,—put and agreed to.

Ordered, To Report, together with the Minutes of Evidence, and an Appendix.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME OF WITNESS.	Profession or Condition.	From whence Summoned.	Number of Days Absent from Home, under Orders of Committee.	Allowance during Absence from Home.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
Alderman W. Rayment	Chairman of Savings Bank	Hull - - -	3	£. s. d. 3 3 -	£. s. d. 2 14 10	£. s. d. 5 17 10
William Meikle	- - -	Glasgow - - -	3	3 3 -	5 15 -	8 18 -
John Rayner	Secretary of Savings Bank	Bradford - -	3	3 3 -	2 18 -	6 1 -
Rev. A. S. Page	Clergyman - - -	Stroud, Gloucester- shire.	2	2 2 -	1 16 -	3 18 -
				TOTAL -	- - £.	24 14 10

LIST OF WITNESSES.

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Mr. John Rayner - - - - -	48
Mr. William Rayment - - - - -	53

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Mr. Louis W. Andrews - - - - -	57
Mr. William Bryham Roper - - - - -	59
Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, K.C.M.G. - - - - -	59

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Mr. George T. C. Bartley, M.P. - - - - -	68
Rev. Alexander Shaw Page, M.A. - - - - -	78
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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Monday, 8th April 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Barbour.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. Shaw Lefevre.

Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. David Thomas.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN GEORGE SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. WILLIAM TAYLOR, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *Howell*.

Mr. *Howell*—continued.

1. YOU hold an appointment in the National Debt Office, do you not?—Yes.

2. Will you favour the Committee in saying what office it is that you occupy?—I hold the office of Chief Clerk, and I have charge of the accounts including those of savings banks.

3. Do not the accounts relating to the Trustee Savings Banks pass through your hands?—Yes, all of them.

4. Is it part of your duty to check those accounts, or to see that they are properly rendered?—It is.

5. If any irregularities were discovered, would it be any part of your duty to call attention to them?—Certainly it would.

6. As a matter of fact, have you discovered any irregularities?—We always have a great many queries upon the general statements and on the accounts in the course of the year, and we investigate them to the best of our ability; we have found cases in which the trustees have had to amend their accounts upon several occasions.

7. Will you explain to the Committee the nature of any irregularities which you have discovered from time to time, or to which your attention has been directed?—First of all, taking the weekly statements which are sent up, there are often inaccuracies in them; sometimes the accounts do not balance; sometimes there are items in them which want explanation; occasionally the treasurer does not sign for the amount that should be in his hands; and in regard to the general statement we make many

0.71.

queries. We are able to verify the figures in the general statement partly by the figures which appear in our own books, which we know are accurate, and partly by the returns forwarded by the savings banks themselves from week to week; we often find differences and discrepancies between the amounts received from and paid to depositors; that is to say, whereas, by the weekly returns, a certain total amount appears to have been received, by the general statement another amount appears; in those cases we always submit the accounts to the trustees and ask for an explanation. In many cases there are arithmetical errors in the classification account; those are always referred to the trustees. Sometimes we have an amended classification account sent up, which proves to be wrong as well, and occasionally we have to write even two or three times before we get them arithmetically correct; we cannot check them beyond that. Then I should add that we have instituted a method of endeavouring to check the accuracy of the interest allowed to depositors in the year, and under that head we make a great many queries from year to year; in some cases we have had amended statements sent up for several years in consequence of our representations.

Mr. *Bartley*.

8. Do you mean each individual deposit, or the gross amount?—The gross amount, and it is very difficult to get at that precisely; we can only reason upon that item.

9. You

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Mr. Howell.

9. You will observe that there is a portion of Exhibit, No. 4, page 151, in the Appendix, put in the evidence of Sir Rivers Wilson, calling attention to some queries which have been made. Are you satisfied, generally, with the power at present possessed by the National Debt Commissioners in compelling attention to demands, such as those, either as to unsatisfactory accounts or as to irregularities?—Not altogether, because there are cases in which we have communicated with the trustees from year to year for many years, and have never been able to get proper attention paid to our remonstrances.

10. Not up to now?—No; for instance, in the last case mentioned on page 153, that of Barnard Castle, for many years we have addressed remonstrances to the trustees with regard to the accuracy of their accounts, and I think the reply generally has been, that they have referred to their actuary, and are satisfied with his explanation. We were never satisfied with it, but until the passing of the Trustee Savings Bank Act, 1887, we could go no further than we did. Since then we have rather brought the weight of that Act to bear upon the trustees, and they have conducted an examination into their accounts; and although we have not yet had a report from the accountants employed, a large firm of chartered accountants, yet they have informed us that the general statements since 1861 have all been wrong; so that we were right in our contention that the accounts were inaccurate, but we could never bring the trustees to own to it.

11. Upon the last case but one you have had on several occasions, I believe, to communicate with their board, but have never got a satisfactory explanation?—That savings bank has called in a public accountant; I do not know that he is a well-known man, but as far as I know he is a man who is capable of conducting the inquiry. He has reported, and at the present time we are in this position, that Sir Rivers Wilson has called upon the trustees as strongly as he thought he fairly could to close the bank. The trustees have come to no conclusion as yet; they have asked for an interview with Sir Rivers Wilson, and that interview would have been held last week but Sir Rivers Wilson being ill the meeting has been postponed; he will, I expect, be able to meet them very soon.

Chairman.

12. Has he the power under the Act to close a bank?—Not exactly, but we have gone as far as we could; we have recommended that to be done.

Mr. Howell.

13. You have recommended them to do so and pointed out the alternative of having a public inquiry under the Act?—Yes.

14. Do you consider the National Debt Office has any really effective control over the figures submitted to it by the trustee savings banks as to their general statement?—Not as to some of the figures. We have no really effective control over the weekly statements submitted by the trustees, but we must take those as correct upon faith in those who sign the returns. We have no effective control over the amount of

Mr. Howell—continued.

interest credited to depositors in the year. We have no means of ascertaining whether the classification account has been properly set out, and consequently we have no means of knowing whether the liabilities to depositors include everything that ought to be included under that head. All these things we must accept under the hands of the trustees.

15. Have you not been, up to the passing of the recent Act, practically impotent in regard to these returns, in compelling the trustees, managers, and actuaries of banks, to give you such information as you require with respect to them?—In regard to the general statement perhaps we may have a little more power, because it might possibly be held, in certain circumstances, that unless a statement is rendered which we believe to be accurate, we might decline to receive the statement. I do not know how far we could go in that direction, but however much we might think it inaccurate, we could not altogether compel the trustees to revise the figures.

16. To take two examples which have been made public; the banks of Bishop Stortford and Sevenoaks, both of which were fraudulent cases, which are mentioned in this Return No. 4, attention is called to the fact, that the Commissioners entertained grave suspicions with regard to the unsatisfactory condition of things in those banks, and yet they were unable, practically, to do anything in regard to them?—I think, in the case of the Sevenoaks bank, the trustees informed us that they had a public accountant, and that it rested upon him to detect any error in the accounts. In the case of the Bishop Stortford bank, as far as I remember, the trustees relied upon the word of their actuary; but in my own mind I have no doubt whatever that if the trustees at Sevenoaks and at Bishop Stortford had followed up our queries, they would have found out the discrepancies that existed long before they did.

17. You know that in the case of Bishop Stortford the balance went down alarmingly year by year; did you call attention to that fact?—I did. It was thought to be a natural decay on the part of the savings bank for some time, but I did draw attention to it on several occasions.

18. And no attention was paid to your communication?—I meant officially. We drew the attention of the trustees to the fact that the interest allowed was wrong, and they did not meet us with an investigation at all, because they were perfectly satisfied with what their actuary told them.

19. Until the discovery was made?—Yes, until the discovery was made.

20. If you turn to Question 1068, you will find that Sir Rivers Wilson expresses a disinclination to put in force the formidable machinery provided in the Trustee Savings Banks Act, namely, the power of holding an inquiry, which he thought would at once stamp the bank as fraudulent in some way. Then, supposing you discovered some discrepancies, which you did not think would be of a fraudulent character, but still something that might lead to certain irregularities and wrong, have you thought of any suggestion whereby

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Mr. Howell—continued.

whereby power could be exercised over the trustees and managers to compel attention to the suggestions of the National Debt Office?—I think it might be possible for a Commissioner to go down and look at their books when we might be able to find out in a very short space of time where the screw was loose; but I do not think it would be advisable for the National Debt Commissioners to undertake work of that sort. It would apparently be taking the responsibility off the shoulders of the trustees and assuming it themselves.

21. You have really nothing to suggest as between the power you have now and the power given by the Act of 1887. I am speaking entirely with regard to the power of the National Debt Office?—I do not think I have. If we were able to send somebody down to look at the books and satisfy ourselves, I think it would be found that there were many cases in which the errors arose from careless book-keeping. In those cases, if we had put in force the powers of the Trustee Savings Bank Act of 1887, and found there was nothing more than that, it would have been a very serious step to have taken; but I do not think I should like to advise any further interference on behalf of the National Debt Commissioners, especially with so many savings banks as there are.

22. Supposing it were deemed desirable to strengthen the hands of the National Debt Commissioners, have you any reason to suppose that trustees and managers would object to giving more complete returns, speaking generally?—I do not know that I have. I think that in the well-managed savings banks they would offer no objection to it whatever. There might be cases in which objections would be urged, but I do not think that those who know that their accounts are right would object to their being looked into at all.

23. Is it not the fact that there are a number of trustee banks which may be described as decaying banks; that is to say, banks whose balance of assets over liabilities is annually decreasing; or, in other words, banks which are annually being carried on at a loss?—No doubt there are several banks which are in a state of decay.

24. In the case of the banks to which your attention has been called, do you think there would be a sufficiency, in the event of their closing, to give any compensation to any of their officers?—There might be in some of them a small amount.

Mr. Bartley.

25. You stated that the assets were annually decreasing; do not you mean the surplus assets?—Yes; it is the surplus which is shown upon that return.

26. Should I not be right in saying that in those banks where the surplus assets are greatly decreasing, there is still sufficient to pay every depositor in full?—Yes, I think I may say there is, in those cases.

27. Therefore those banks, although they may be decaying in the amount of work they do, are in no way decaying in regard to the security of their depositors?—Not as far as I know.

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Mr. Bartley—continued.

28. Then, as regards the compensation to the officers, does that in any way affect the security to the depositors; or, to put it in another way, supposing a bank could not give its officers compensation, would that in any way make the bank less secure?—Not at all.

29. Therefore, a bank which has not got a fund for compensation is in no way decaying as regards its security to its depositors?—No; the only money that is applicable to compensation is any surplus that may occur after having paid all the depositors in full.

30. Therefore, you do not mean to suggest that any of the banks which have been thus referred to are in any way unsound as regards their depositors?—By no means.

Mr. Howell.

31. In your opinion, would not the condition of those banks be rendered worse by the interest allowed by the Government being reduced?—If they reduced the interest to their depositors to the same extent, they would stand in about the same position as they did before.

32. Is it not the fact that they pay the minimum now?—In those cases their position would be worse than it was before.

Mr. Mowbray.

33. Is there a necessary minimum?—No, there is no minimum.

34. Then is there anything to prevent their reducing their rate of interest to their depositors *pro rata*?—No, nothing whatever; except that, if they reduced it much below $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., possibly the depositors might withdraw their money; that would be the only fear.

Mr. Bartley.

35. But that would not diminish their safety?—No, not at all.

36. I want to know whether you meant by your answer that the reduction of the rate of interest under the conversion scheme, would place these banks in a worse position?—If a bank is unable to reduce the rate of interest to the depositors, by the amount by which the interest received from the Government has been reduced, it will be of course worse for the bank.

37. But have you any reason to suppose that any of those banks will be in that position?—Yes: whereas some of these banks may get 5 s. per cent. less from the Government, they may reduce the interest to their depositors by a smaller amount.

38. Do you know that as a fact?—Yes.

39. Has that been settled in any of the banks?—Yes.

40. Are they small banks?—I should hardly like to say anything without referring as to the size of the banks.

Mr. Mowbray.

41. To what point has the interest been reduced in those banks to which you have been referring, in your answer to Mr. Bartley?—To $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

42. They were previously giving more?—They were previously giving more, and then since the conversion, the interest to the trustees

has

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has been reduced to 2 l. 15 s., and the maximum rate of interest which any trustee savings bank may give has been reduced to 2 l. 10 s.; they may not give more than 2 l. 10 s.

Mr. Bartley.

43. Can you give a list of those banks which do not propose to give a decrease to a corresponding amount, since the conversion scheme has been introduced?—I will endeavour to supply that.

Mr. Howell.

44. Will not there be a less margin of profit to those banks in all cases where the interest is reduced?—In those banks which are unable to reduce to the extent to which the interest is reduced to the trustees, there will be a smaller margin of profit.

45. Would it not be necessary that they should reduce below that margin, in order to enable them to pay in existing circumstances?—Their profits would be smaller, and they would have to revise their expenditure in some way, in order to meet the reduction of profit.

46. Will you turn to Question 788 of Mr. Brabrook's evidence, and his statement that if large transfers took place from the trustee savings banks which were closing, to the Post Office savings banks, there would certainly be a very great leakage of deposits. Could you procure for the Committee a return of the percentage of deposits transferred to the Post Office from all banks closed within the last two years, and where visited by the Post Office officials, and where not so visited?—I think we might be able to prepare a return of that nature; but as a rule the National Debt Commissioners invariably inform the Postmaster General when any savings bank is about to close, so that he may take steps, if he thinks it advisable, to put in an appearance at their closing and to take over any depositors' moneys that they can get.

47. Do not you think that it is advisable in all cases, and important, that the Post Office officials should attend every closing of a bank to explain the facilities offered by the Post Office, and the facilities for transfer?—I think it is.

48. Is it not the fact that a good deal of the money in such cases, instead of being transferred to the Post Office direct, is withdrawn, and is afterwards deposited as cash, so that it cannot be ear-marked and included in the percentage usually given?—Yes, no doubt a large amount is withdrawn in cash and taken to a post office savings bank. There is an estimate of the amount in this Parliamentary Return (301 of 1888), I think at the end (*after referring*). Up to the month of November 1887 about 360,000 l., I think, was estimated as having been so withdrawn and taken to the Post Office.

49. Out of how much?—I do not know out of how much. Those figures are furnished by the Postmaster General. I do not know whether he would be able to give that information.

50. But by referring to your own returns, could not you there tell the amount in hand at the closing of the bank, which the Postmaster General would inform you of the amount trans-

Mr. Howell—continued.

ferred?—Yes, we might be able to get that information.

51. Now, will you turn to Question 951, with reference to Sir Rivers Wilson's statement that country gentlemen take less interest than formerly in the management of savings banks. Can you give the Committee any information as to the resignation of trustees and managers, or, as to any difficulty in getting them to attend to the business of a bank?—I do not think the trustees do give the same personal attention to the management of trustee savings banks as they used to give in the olden time. I think the machinery that is in existence in the larger banks does not render the personal attendance of the trustees so necessary, and in the small banks I think a great deal of dependence is placed upon the actuary or secretary, as the case may be.

52. Have any cases come under your knowledge of the weekly or annual returns having been signed by trustees and manager without proper examination and authentication by them individually and generally?—Yes; I think on one or two occasions we have discovered cases in which the weekly returns have been signed in blank.

Mr. Mowbray.

53. How did you ascertain that?—It happened that two returns were sent up, one inside the other; each return was signed by the same trustee, and we then referred the matter to the trustees to know the reason.

Mr. Howell.

54. Do you mean to say that the trustee signed a blank form, and then allowed the actuary to fill in the figures?—Yes.

55. Was that the case in Cardiff, at all?—Not as far as I am aware.

Mr. Bartley.

56. And that is extending over a good many years?—Yes.

57. There are 400 banks, are there not?—There were at 20th November 1887.

58. And they send 50 returns a year each?—Yes.

59. That makes 20,000 returns a year?—Yes.

60. And half-a-million returns have been sent up in that way?—Yes.

61. And out of those in only one or two cases have the returns been signed beforehand?—Yes; so far as it has come to our notice.

Mr. Howell.

62. But my question was rather as to their having been signed without proper examination and authentication?—I thought probably you would have called that without proper examination and authentication, because the trustees' signature was affixed before the accounts were filled in.

63. Does your experience of those returns lead you to support Sir Rivers Wilson's recommendation that "greater responsibility should attach to trustees and managers signing such documents;" that is referred to in Question 954?—Yes; I think it does; but I think that perhaps it would be better to insist upon the weekly

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weekly return being signed by the trustee or manager who was present during the week, and then you would get at the person who ought to have known what the transactions of the week were.

64. To sign it in any other way would be fraudulent, would it not, according to the Act?—There might be a clerical error or mistake in the weekly return, and if it were signed by another trustee or manager he might not detect that; but the trustee or manager who was present at the weekly transactions ought to have discovered anything of that sort. Supposing I were present during the banking hours of business, and the weekly return was not properly filled up then, and another trustee attended the following week and signed the return for the week during which I was present, it seems rather hard upon him that he should be held responsible for signing the return of the week during which I was present.

65. That is to say that B should not sign the return made up by A?—Quite so, and that you should hold A responsible for the return he signed.

66. Do not you consider the whole system of keeping accounts and making returns in many of the trustee savings banks very unsatisfactory; I have, of course, in my mind's eye the cases of fraud which have been recently investigated?—Of course we have no means of knowing what the system is in the savings banks; but judging by experience, there must be something wrong in the way in which these returns have been prepared in certain savings banks.

Chairman.

67. You mean in the banks in which those cases occurred?—Just so.

Mr. Howell.

68. You will remember that the audit of accounts is specifically provided for in the Act of 1863, sections 6 and 7?—That is so.

69. Do you consider that the audit is an important matter in connection with those banks?—There is no doubt that the audit of the accounts of a savings bank is a very important matter, but I think it is a simple matter; that is to say, it is only an audit of cash transactions and calculations of interest; and if the business of the bank be carried on as it ought to be carried on under this Act of Parliament, the auditor would have very little responsibility resting upon him, because the accounts ought to be in a proper state. I think that if the requirements of the Savings Banks Act of 1863 are properly attended to, there is very little room for anything wrong to take place.

70. As far as you know, is the audit, as at present carried out, purely a matter of private arrangement by the board of management and the actuary, in so far as its quality, nature, and extent are concerned?—Subject to those few requirements of the Act, I expect it is.

71. Do not you think that this arrangement in many cases fails to secure a proper audit of

Mr. Howell—continued.

the accounts as contemplated by the Act?—It appears to have done so; but I do not think an auditor ought ever to be trammelled by any requirements of the trustees. I think an auditor, if he knows his work, should go in and do what he considers necessary.

72. Should not the times of the audits be to some extent uncertain, and practically continuous, as opposed to fixed dates?—Yes, it is advisable in the case of savings banks.

73. Should there not be, in your opinion, some clear and definite rules laid down as to audit, for all trustee banks?—I should hardly like to go as far as that. I would rather throw the responsibility upon the auditor for taking every step he thought was necessary.

74. And you would do that after the public examinations that we have had during the last two years?—Yes, I think I would; but you might make the auditor's penalty heavier than it is.

75. Do you consider the system of receiving the deposit books from and through the actuary's hands for the purpose of audit a satisfactory one?—Not altogether. I think the audit, if the books are brought in by a depositor and simply passed from the actuary to the auditor, might in that case be considered a satisfactory one; but if the actuary had time to manipulate them in between, if he wanted to do so, that would not be satisfactory.

76. Does not it strike you that that took place at Cardiff and other places into which investigations have recently taken place?—I am hardly sufficiently informed about the practice in those banks to say.

77. In your opinion, ought not the auditor personally to receive deposit books from depositors, as they happen to be presented at the counter?—Yes; if I were auditor I should take good care to get the depositors' books in that way.

78. Ought not the depositors' books in all cases to be compared with the ledger and with the extracted list of balances?—There is no doubt that the auditor ought to compare all depositors' books he can with the ledger, and also with the extracted lists of balances.

79. The extracted list is practically that by which the National Debt Office has to go; that which is sent up to you, is it not?—No, we do not get the extracted list; we get the classification account. There is an extracted list of every balance, but that we do not see.

80. Do not you think it rather important, in view of what has taken place recently, that you should have that extracted list at the National Debt Office, the list, I believe, being authenticated or supposed to be authenticated by the signatures of certain trustees and managers?—I think the list is authenticated; but it is not required by the Act that it should be signed.

81. Do you think any audit is worth anything unless some such mode as this of comparing the deposit books with the ledger is pursued?—There is no doubt that in comparing the accounts of the bank the auditor ought to see as many of the deposit books as he can and compare them with the ledger, and I should not think much of his

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his auditing if he failed to examine a large number of them.

82. I think you just spoke of the audit, if the accounts are kept properly, not being a very difficult one?—No.

83. You would not, therefore, think it necessary, in all cases, that there should be a chartered accountant employed?—Not necessarily; I think you may sometimes get with advantage a chartered accountant, but I think the audit of a savings bank would be an audit that very many men would be able to undertake; it only requires care and patience.

84. If the accounts are properly kept?—If the accounts are properly kept.

85. Do you think that the amounts paid for the audit of trustee bank accounts are sufficient to ensure such an audit as was contemplated by the Savings Banks Act, 1863?—Not in many cases; no doubt the fees are very small; they would not represent an adequate payment.

86. Take Wallingford; the fee I find for the audit at Wallingford was 2 l. 10 s.?—It is two guineas this year.

87. Do not you think that is a very small payment for the duty?—Of course the fee would not pay the auditor, but if the auditor took an interest in the affairs of the savings bank and the conduct of its affairs, from that point of view the fee would not be a matter of importance.

88. Take Maidenhead again; possibly it is reduced there, but the return I extracted this from was the last, 3 l. 10 s.?—Yes, 3 l. 10 s.

89. Then in Alston it was 5 l.; now they have reduced it to 4 l.; is not that so?—Yes, it is reduced to 4 l.

90. At Tynemouth it was 10 l., was it not, and it is now reduced to 6 l. 6 s.?—Yes; at Tynemouth it is 6 l. 6 s. now.

91. At Wellington the fee was 20 l.; it is now reduced to 10 l., is it not?—Yes, that would be a great drop.

92. Does there seem to be any kind of system at all for paying auditors; upon the number of deposit accounts or anything of that kind, taking the banks generally?—No. I think each bank pays just according to its own idea of what ought to be paid or what it can afford to pay.

93. You remember that in Mr. Banner Newton's evidence he claimed for trustees in savings banks that they offered greater facilities than Post Office savings banks; now let me ask you a question with reference to the days upon which they are open; here I have prepared a return which I will place before you; I have given a list of banks and the number of hours that they are open. First, I would ask you is it not the fact that 136 trustee savings banks are only open for the transaction of business during on an average two hours a week, and on one day only during the week?—This statement gives 136 banks as open one day in the week only, the average being two hours and one minute.

Mr. Bartley.

94. Do you know that to be correct?—I do not.

Chairman.

95. Will you kindly verify it afterwards by looking it over, and if you find it necessary to correct it, do so subsequently?—I will.

Mr. Howell.

96. Are there not 22 banks which are only open for business once a fortnight or once a month for from one to four hours?—Twenty-two banks appear to be open less than one day a week.

97. Are others open only two days a week?—Yes.

98. I think there are only some 27 banks in all which are open daily; have you any knowledge with regard to that?—I know the number is very limited.

99. The average being about 25 hours per week?—Yes.

100. Bearing in mind the fact that so many of these banks are only open for a few hours during the week, do not you think that the Post Office savings bank being open daily for about seven or eight hours offers greater facilities in this respect than trustee savings banks?—There is no doubt that the Post Office savings bank does offer greater facilities in that respect.

Mr. Bartley.

101. But do you know whether the Post Office savings banks are open in the evening in those places?—I could not verify that without going through each individual case.

102. But is not that a very important part of the question; are not trustee savings banks always open in the evening?—They are very generally.

103. And the Post Office savings banks are not?—The Post Office savings banks are in many cases open till late in the evening, but it depends upon where the Post Office savings bank is established.

104. You only think that is so; you do not know?—I could not say off-hand without the Return, because some Post Office savings banks are open later than others.

Mr. Howell.

105. Would you give the Committee some indication of the number of hours, relatively, as suggested in that Return?—We could prepare a Return upon those lines for you.

106. Then with regard to this payment of small amounts at sight by trustee savings banks, does it not follow that in the case of 158 banks which I have noted down on a Return before me, depositors wanting even a few shillings may have to wait from six to 30 days before they can withdraw the amount?—Yes; in some cases the depositors will have to wait some time before they can get their money, especially in a bank which is only open once a fortnight or once a month.

107. Mr. Ludlow stated, in answer to Question 243, that 14 days' notice is required for withdrawals of money from the Post Office savings banks; is not that wholly a mistake?—Yes; practically, you can get money from a post office almost by return of post; you certainly would get it in any case within three days.

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108. From any amount, from 1 s. to 200 l. ?—Yes, to any amount.

109. Should you not think that 48 hours would be the utmost limit in a post office for the withdrawal of those amounts?—It might extend to three days in some cases.

Mr. Bartley.

110. But do not a great number of trustee savings banks pay small sums at sight?—Yes, they do.

111. Does a Post Office savings bank ever pay small sums at sight?—Never.

Mr. Howell.

112. But in the case of paying at sight, it must be paid at sight upon the day the bank is open; and if it is only open once a month withdrawals can only take place once a month?—Yes, that is so.

113. Do not nearly all the trustee savings banks require a week or a fortnight's notice for the withdrawal of 10 l. and over?—Yes, they require notice; but I think the practice of paying small sums at sight has obtained a great deal, and in that case the notice is suspended; still they have the power, in many banks, to require notice if necessary.

114. Mr. Banner Newton also referred to the question of privacy; are you aware that the Post Office authorities have for years ceased to send out receipts and orders for payment in specially marked envelopes?—No. I think, speaking from my experience of the Post Office savings banks, wherever there is a transaction, either in or out, you get an official communication.

115. But not marked outside as formerly, "O. H. M. S."?—No, but I think everybody knows what it refers to.

116. Speaking generally, with regard to the facilities offered, do you think the facilities offered by trustee savings banks for depositing and withdrawing money, are equal to those offered by the Post Office savings banks?—Perhaps in some of the larger towns, where the banks are open daily, it may be that in those cases they have, by being able to obtain money at sight, facilities in excess of those given by the Post Office savings banks.

117. How many banks are open daily?—About 27, according to this statement; but of course it would be only in the case of those banks which are frequently open that that advantage would apply.

118. Now some questions have been asked with regard to the relative cost to the State of the trustee savings banks and the Post Office savings banks. I do not wish you to answer anything except that which is of a public nature with regard to this question. This question has been already answered in the House, I think; that is to say, that the annual cost to the National Debt Commissioners, for management, is about 6,000 l. per annum?—We estimate it at about 5,000 l. per annum now. The incidence of the work in the office has altered a great deal, consequently the figures have altered also.

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Mr. Howell—continued.

119. How long has that been so?—We reduced it a little two years ago, and we reduced it further this year. It is an approximation only, but I think it is more fairly to be stated at 5,000 l. than 6,000 l.

120. The large deficiency which is being made up now yearly, and will be made up until the year 1908, arose from the excess of interest that has to be paid by the National Debt Office to the trustee savings banks, and to the friendly societies depositing money?—Yes, no doubt.

121. That amounts to 83,672 l. per annum?—Yes.

122. That is the amount of redemption?—That is the amount of annuity that has to be paid annually up to the 15th day of May 1908.

123. Then besides that and the cost of management, the losses during the last few years have ranged from 3,081 l. in 1884 to 13,746 l. in 1887?—The amount of interest received by the National Debt Commissioners on account of savings banks was less than that which they had to pay and credit to the trustee savings banks by the amount you have stated.

124. The return for last year is not yet published; have you any approximate idea or estimate of what it cost last year to the 20th of November?—It has been stated in the Estimates of the House; I think it is 25,000 l. this year; the year before it was 13,746 l.

Chairman.

125. What is the increase due to?—I think it was in the main due to the fact that some securities upon which we formerly received 3½ per cent. and 3¼ per cent. per annum interest only yield us now 3 per cent.

Mr. Bartley.

126. But do you give more than 3 per cent. to any trustee savings bank?—No, we only give 2½ per cent. at this moment, but that only dates from last November; we have not yet completed a year at 2½ per cent.

127. What did you give before then?—Three per cent.

Chairman.

128. Then I suppose there was a short period in which you received less interest and made the same payments as before?—I do not know how far I am justified in going into that question without the authority of my chief; that is the only difficulty I have.

129. Is there likely to be a loss at this moment on the current year?—I think, roughly speaking, that the amount which the State will have to make good this year is 25,000 l.

130. But I think I understood you to say that that was due to something that occurred last year?—Yes; we feel the full effect of it in the year ending the 20th November 1888.

Mr. Bartley.

131. Is that entirely in relation to Trustee Savings Banks?—Yes.

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132. Do

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Mr. TAYLOR.

[Continued.]

Chairman.

132. Do you say that you have some difficulty in going into the subject?—Of course I am only a subordinate.

133. Perhaps you will speak to Sir Rivers Wilson, and ask him whether you shall give the information, or whether he will come himself?—I will.

Mr. Howell.

134. Insofar as the figures I have given you are correct, they are taken from your returns. But I would ask you whether you are not aware that large amounts have been paid into the Exchequer (under 40 Vict. c. 13, s. 14), being the surplus of interest accrued on funds of Post Office savings banks in excess of the interest paid to depositors and working expenses?—The surplus has been paid in for many years.

135. Have you any knowledge, personally, of the amounts?—This year it is 68,000 l., I think.

136. I have asked for returns to be given me from the Post Office. Will you look at that (*handing a Paper to the Witness*)?—Those figures appear to me to be correct.

137. Would you look and see if these also are correct (*handing another Paper to the Witness*)?—I brought a Paper down with me which I asked Sir Rivers Wilson's permission on Saturday night to produce in relation to the deficiency of income on savings banks, and to the surplus of income on the Post Office savings banks, which he gave me authority to put in, if you wish it (*producing a Paper*). I have included in that the estimate for this year. (*The same was handed in.*)

138. You are aware, are you not, that in addition to those figures the Post Office Savings Bank Fund profit is some 30,000 l. a year, and that the charge upon the National Debt is reduced by that sum annually, in consequence of the conversion of 6,550,000 l. Consols, and 3,450,000 l. Reduced Three per Cents. into New Two-and-a-Half per Cents.?—The effect of the recent great conversion is not shown at all upon those figures.

139. In addition to that, that great conversion would be felt too?—Yes, that will be felt too in the future reduction.

140. Have you noticed, or has your attention been drawn to the fact, that there has been a large decrease of the capital of many of the trustee banks since 1881?—Yes; there has been a decrease of capital in the old trustee banks.

Mr. Mowbray.

141. Would you mind telling the Committee what you mean by "capital"?—I take it that the word meant in that case the amount due to the depositors. I would rather take it in this way, that the balance due to trustees by the National Debt Commissioners has been lessened from year to year. It gradually grew up to the year 1887, but during the year 1888 the amount due by the National Debt Commissioners to the trustees of savings banks has fallen by about 800,000 l.

142. Out of how much?—£. 47,750,000; that is on the aggregate.

Mr. Mowbray—continued.

143. That would have been caused by the fact that some trustee banks have been closed during that period?—Yes. (*The statement was handed in.*)

Chairman.

144. It is only since the year 1887 that there has been any decrease?—Yes; of course a large number of banks have been closed. Perhaps the Committee would like to know that in the year ending 20th November 1888, 18 savings banks closed; that since the 20th November 1888, 17 more banks have closed, and 14 are now in process of closing.

145. Do you know how many deposits they have?—Those that have closed since the 20th of November 1888, represent deposits to about 560,000 l. or 570,000 l.

Mr. Bartley.

146. But you have no idea that there is any loss in any of them?—No, not in any case.

147. Then they have not been closed because they were insolvent?—Not at all.

148. Do you know why they have been closed?—I do not think that we have been informed of any special reason, except that the trustees think in some cases that the facilities offered by the Post Office savings banks are ample, and that there is not the same need of trustee banks.

149. You think that the trustees have been frightened?—Yes, I think that is very likely.

Chairman.

150. How much were the deposits of the 18 savings banks that were closed up to the 20th of November 1888?—They amounted to about 1,166,000 l.

Mr. Howell.

151. Are you aware that of the sum of 4,539,150 l. due to depositors in these 94 banks, 800,000 l. is due to accrued interest only, that is since 1881, six years?—I am not aware of that, except generally.

152. Are you not aware that a very large amount of the money in many of the banks at the present time is really due to accrued interest and not to annual deposit?—Unquestionably it is.

153. And that in a very large number of banks there is no actual increase of deposits at all?—Yes, it is the case.

154. In instances such as these would not the margin of profit be diminished to the detriment of the bank when their income does not come from fresh supplies of money from depositors, but from accrued interest?—Yes, no doubt it is so; but the trustees take every step in their power to reduce the expenditure first.

Mr. Bartley.

155. How do they do so?—Because the capital is not so large and the profit is not so great.

156. But if 10,000 l. is added by accrued interest, is it not exactly the same as if 10,000 l. had been put in by fresh deposits?—Yes, in that sense it is.

157. Then how does it reduce the profits?—The capital would be larger, but the amount received as well would be larger.

158. That

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Mr. TAYLOR.

[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

158. That is to say if they take deposits as well?—Yes.

159. But I understood you to say that because it was accrued interest therefore the profit was less?—I did not intend to say that.

160. You withdraw that answer?—Yes.

Mr. Howell.

161. You withdraw the statement, do you, that where there are no fresh deposits, and the bank lives upon the interest of capital already invested, there is a diminished margin for the profit of the bank?—No, not that; the capital of the savings bank is reduced; that goes down from year to year. Of course as the capital is reduced so the profits may be slightly reduced as well; that is to say, the margin of profit is reduced, and the trustees do their best to meet that loss by a reduction of expenditure in many cases; sometimes, if necessary, by a reduction of the interest to depositors.

162. Both of which cases have taken place in the last year or two?—Yes, in some cases.

Mr. Bartley.

163. Then one knows the larger the amount held in a bank the larger the profit?—Yes.

Mr. Howell.

164. Now, with regard to the use of the Government name; you are aware, are you not, that many trustee savings banks use the name of the Government to convey the notion of security in a way not contemplated by the Act?—Yes; but two or three cases have been brought under the notice of the National Debt Commissioners, and in those cases we have referred the point to the savings banks, and they have amended their ways; but we know that it has been done in cases which have not come under our notice generally.

165. So that, in reality, those cases do not all come under your notice?—No, they do not all come under our notice. None of the returns which come under the notice of the National Debt Commissioners contain anything to lead to the notion that they refer to the Government in any way.

166. Do you send out the form?—We send out the weekly forms and the annual forms.

167. Therefore, naturally, any such reference would not appear upon the forms that went out from the National Debt Office?—No.

168. But where documents have come in from trustee savings banks you have often found, have you not, that they use the Government name in some form?—It is a very rare thing for a deposit book to come to us.

Chairman.

169. Have you any reason to believe that there are many such cases?—I would not say there are many; I would say several; but we have not the same means of ascertaining that others might have.

Mr. Howell.

170. Do you think the trustee savings banks are justified in using the term "Government security," and other terms indicating State security?—

Mr. Howell—continued.

171. Have any steps been taken since the report of the Honourable Lyulph Stanley was presented, to prevent the misuse of the Government name, as a title by trustee banks?—Not by the National Debt Commissioners.

172. Have they no power?—They would represent any such case that came under their notice to the trustees, but we have not circularised them at all.

173. The Registrar's Office would not have any knowledge of that kind?—I do not think they would have any opportunity of finding out anything of that kind.

174. With regard to unclaimed deposits, can you tell the Committee what is the legal position of trustee banks as regards unclaimed deposits?—The practice, I think, varies in many banks. I think I have put in a return upon a previous occasion, though Sir Rivers Wilson, showing some of the rules in regard to unclaimed deposits; that is to say, some few typical rules. The Kennington Savings Bank, I observe, was only enabled to close without creating a deficiency by utilising a small amount of unclaimed deposits, namely 97 l.

175. How do the National Debt Commissioners themselves regard such unclaimed deposits?—I think I am right in assuming that we should consider a deposit once handed over to the trustees as always belonging to the depositor, and it could not be unclaimed; that is to say, that they would always have a right to their money.

176. Have any cases of appropriations by trustees of unclaimed deposits come to your notice?—Yes; this one of Kennington in particular.

177. Have you any knowledge of what was done at Farringdon-street?—I think I may say that the amount due to every depositor there who was not paid off in full was transferred to the Post Office savings bank. All unclaimed deposits, as far as I am aware, were included in their liabilities to the depositors.

178. At the time of closing?—Yes.

179. Are you aware that a large amount of unclaimed deposits was dissipated year by year for the payment off of a fraud which took place at that time?—Yes; but the whole of the liability in respect of those deposits was restored before the savings bank closed, it was all added to the liabilities to the depositors before the closing of the savings bank, and no depositor suffered a penny of loss.

180. So that if they should turn up?—They would get their money.

181. Was it done with the sanction of the National Debt Office when these unclaimed deposits were appropriated in this way?—It was some years before my time, but we certainly did not oppose it.

182. Do you think that the National Debt Commissioners were justified in dissipating moneys which had laid unclaimed for a certain while in trustee saving banks, by using them in payments to make good fraud?—The trustees had a rule justifying what they did.

183. By whom was that rule certified?—That was a rule certified by Mr. Tidd Pratt; I think that

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[Continued.]

Mr. Howell—continued.

that so long as the right of the depositor is retained it does not matter much how they deal with the unclaimed deposits.

184. But do you think the unclaimed deposits in the case I have indicated belong to anybody at all except the State; do not they stand in the same way as the estate of an intestate?—I should hardly like to say; we call a deposit “unclaimed” according to some of these rules when there has been no transaction on the account for seven years; but that is a very short period.

185. But do those unclaimed deposits in any case belong to the bank as their property to be dealt with as they think proper?—Not in my opinion.

186. Do you think they are authorised to do so by any law?—I am not a lawyer, but I should think not.

187. Do you think that they are justified in using an unclaimed deposit for the payment of current expenses or in salaries to actuaries or clerks?—Temporarily they might make use of it in that way, provided they know that there is a sufficiency of assets to meet the whole of their liabilities, including these, whenever the time may come that they are wanted.

188. But not absolutely to dissipate the amount?—No.

189. Do you think the unclaimed deposits ought to be appropriated even to the payment of interest to living or existing depositors?—My view is that the unclaimed deposits ought in every case of savings banks to be included in the amount of liabilities to depositors year by year.

190. And in the event of a bank closing, they should be handed over to the Government?—In the event of a bank closing those accounts would go as depositors’ accounts to the savings banks.

191. But they ought not to be used for the payment of back debts belonging to the bank?—Certainly not.

192. Nor to make up fraudulent transactions?—Certainly not, in my opinion; I think that the annual statement of liabilities to depositors ought to include everything, unclaimed and otherwise.

Mr. Bartley.

193. How would you then ever clear the ledger of these accounts?—I see no objection to putting these accounts into one ledger. You might call it the dormant ledger, or the unclaimed ledger; but still let the liabilities appear under the head of liabilities year by year for ever.

Mr. Mowbray.

194. But if the amount went on accruing to more than 200 *l.*, what would happen?—The trustees would not give interest when the amount reached 200 *l.*

195. But you would give interest to the trustees, would you not?—Yes, we should.

196. What becomes of the interest then?—That goes toward the profits of the savings bank.

Mr. Howell.

197. The accumulation would absolutely cease after the amount reached 200 *l.*?—Yes.

198. You do not think there would be any

Mr. Howell—continued.

objection to the payment to the bank of the amount of interest upon sums beyond 200 *l.*, and that being used for like purposes?—No, because the depositor would get all he was entitled to.

199. Now, I want to ask a question as to the annual return. Your attention has been, doubtless, directed to these matters in the course of the inquiry at Cardiff, and perhaps you are aware that there were nearly 700 deposits in that bank which exceeded the 30 *l.* limit?—I remember that a large number of accounts did exceed that.

200. Do not you think this is strong presumptive evidence that a large proportion of those who use the savings banks really require to go beyond the 30 *l.*?—That opens a large question. It is impossible to say to what extent the liability to depositors might run if you increased the annual limit; it is a question that might affect the Chancellor of the Exchequer very much; there is a large amount repayable, I think, now; 104,000,000 *l.* or 105,000,000 *l.*, or more.

201. Have you not reason to believe that in a great number of trustee savings banks they really ignore this legal limit altogether?—No, not as far as I am aware. There may be savings banks in which that limit is ignored; but in others, in what we may call the properly managed banks, the limit is adhered to.

202. Have you any means of knowing, by internal evidence, from the accounts sent to the National Debt Office whether the limit is exceeded?—No, we have no means of knowing.

203. Then judging by the number of instances in which inquiries have been instituted in the last few years do not you find that in nearly all cases it transpired that there were a large number of depositors of over the 30 *l.* limit?—It has not been brought to the notice of the National Debt Commissioners except in the case of Cardiff.

204. And not in the case of other banks?—No, not in the case of other banks.

205. Has it ever struck you that the average amount of deposits in trustee banks is extremely high, compared with those in the Post Office savings banks?—Yes, it is high; but I take it that that is mainly due to the fact that trustee savings banks have been so much longer in existence, and that a large number of the accounts have accumulated up to the limit.

206. And that they are really old accounts?—Yes; accounts which have been kept open in the savings banks for many years.

207. But the number of accounts going up to 200 *l.* unclaimed would naturally tend to raise the average?—Yes.

Mr. Bartley.

208. But do you suggest that there are a great number of the 200 *l.* accounts unclaimed?—No, not unclaimed; we assume that the greater part of the accounts shown in the returns are active accounts. They may include the inactive accounts as well, but it is difficult to say.

Mr. Howell.

209. In the case of Cardiff it appears that there are a number of unclaimed accounts still, notwithstanding that some care has been taken to find

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Mr. Howell—continued.

find out the depositors; are you aware of that fact?—I am aware of that fact.

210. Do you think the high average of trustee savings banks would be really attained if they did not exceed that 30 *l.* limit according to your test?—I think I should say yes, because I have no actual knowledge that they do to any extent exceed the 30 *l.* limit.

211. Have you any way of testing the average at all; do you apply any test at the National Debt Office?—Not in that way at all.

212. Do you apply any test?—Not to the averages, meaning by “average” the average amount of deposits during the year made by each depositor.

213. In what way do you apply the interest tests put in by Sir Rivers Wilson; do they assist you in any way to form an estimate with regard to the average amount of deposits?—Not with regard to the average amount of deposits. We only instituted those tests with a view, if possible, to approximate towards the amount of interest that might be allowed by a savings bank in a year; and that item is the only item in the annual statement that we are unable in some way or other to verify. We have no figures in the office which enable us to verify that amount, and no returns are furnished by the savings banks to enable us to verify that amount. We have endeavoured if we could, thinking that at times doubtful items were hidden in the amount, to find out a plan by which we might ascertain, more or less accurately, the amount shown to be allowed as interest to depositors during the year.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

214. Has it proved satisfactory?—Practically it has.

Mr. Howell.

215. But practically you have no means of testing whether the accounts do exceed the limit fixed by the law?—None whatever.

216. I presume the worst instance, the Cardiff case, came upon you by surprise, where 700 deposits were in excess?—Certainly it did.

217. You are aware that the National Debt Commissioners have made a claim on the Cardiff Bank for the amount of money in excess of interest paid over a series of years?—I am not aware of that.

218. Are you not aware that the Treasury, on behalf of the National Debt Commissioners, have made a formal demand?—I saw a statement in the newspapers to that effect.

219. Have you not seen this notice (*handing a paper to the Witness*)?—I saw a paper to that effect.

Chairman.

220. But you do not know it officially?—No; no steps whatever have been taken by the National Debt Commissioners.

Mr. Howell.

221. Through whose hands would a claim of that description have passed?—I hardly ought to say, because I do not know. No claim was made by the National Debt Commissioners; whether any claim was made by the Treasury on 0.71.

Mr. Howell—continued.

behalf of the National Debt Commissioners I do not know; we have had no intimation to that effect.

222. Have you any knowledge as to the amount that is said to have been drawn from the National Debt Commissioners as interest upon illegal deposits by the Cardiff Bank, extending over a great number of years?—No, we have heard nothing of the kind.

223. You have no means of making up a calculation to offer the Committee?—None whatever. It would be impossible for us to make up any statement of that kind, because if the trustees paid us 1,000 *l.*, we have no means of knowing how that 1,000 *l.* is made up; and we do not ear-mark the 1,000 *l.* in the investment of it, consequently we could not mark the sales to repay the amount.

224. So that you have no means of checking the fact that a bank is drawing interest upon illegal money?—No. We simply know that the bank has so much money with the National Debt Commissioners, and that interest is allowed upon it.

Chairman.

225. If they pay into your hands sums which they ought not to pay into them, you would get interest upon that, although you would have to pay it out with the other hand?—Yes, certainly; if it were possible to ear-mark a particular sum of money and show how we have invested it, and classed it subsequently for repayment, it might be possible with regard to that transaction, to say whether or not a loss had been sustained; but every transaction would have to be ear-marked for that purpose, and it would be impossible to do that.

Mr. Howell.

226. Are you aware that in the Honourable Lyulph Stanley's inquiries, there was a case in which over 6,000 *l.* was invested and interest paid upon it, you had no means of knowing that that was an illegal deposit?—None whatever; we paid interest upon it.

Chairman.

227. And also received interest?—Yes.

Mr. Mowbray.

228. Where do you find it is illegal for you to pay interest upon sums in excess of the limit?—The National Debt Commissioners always have to pay upon the amount which is deposited with them, and they have no means of knowing whether the amounts are illegal or not.

229. Would you refer to section 39 of the Act of 1863, which deals with that. (*The Witness having done so*). The very point I want to draw your attention to there is, that “no interest shall be payable upon any such deposit”?—That is as between the trustees and their depositors.

230. That is what I wanted to bring out, that the illegality is the payment by the trustees of interest to depositors upon a deposit which is over 200 *l.*, and not an illegality as between the National Debt Commissioners and the trustees?—No, of course the trustees have no business to take

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Mr. Mowbray—continued.

take more than 30 *l.* a year, or 200 *l.* on the whole.

231. But there is another clause. In this case the illegality consists in payment by the trustees of interest to a depositor when his amount is in excess of 200 *l.*; but there is nothing in the Act which makes it illegal for the Commissioners of the National Debt to pay interest upon any amount which the trustees themselves hand over to the National Debt Commissioners?—Certainly not.

232. And with regard to the other point, the limit of 30 *l.*, that, I think, comes under Section 38, does it not?—It does, no doubt.

Mr. Howell.

233. Now, with regard to investments in Consols and the Stock system, which also came up in the investigation last year, are you aware that the system of Stock investment has completely failed in three-fourths of the trustee savings banks as affording any outlet to the desire to invest more than 30 *l.* a year?—I think only 118 or 120 out of all the savings banks have availed themselves of the power to invest in Stocks.

234. Out of the whole 400?—That is so.

Mr. Bartley.

235. That system has been only in force a year, has it?—It has been in force eight years; since 1880.

Mr. Howell.

236. Are you not aware that out of those who have adopted it, 59 hold less than 1,000 *l.*?—I have not taken that figure out.

237. The total stock held altogether by trustee savings banks is only the sum of 943,126 *l.*?—It is a trifle over 1,000,000 *l.* now.

238. Then, so far as the trustee savings banks are concerned now, they have not availed themselves of it very largely?—They have not.

239. Are you aware that in the Post Office savings banks the amount is nearly 3,500,000 *l.*?—Yes.

Mr. Mowbray.

240. But are you not aware that the trustee savings banks have under Section 16 of the Savings Banks Act, a power of investing very largely in another direction?—Yes, but only about 15 or 18 actually do invest money in that way, and about 30 banks have the power to do it.

Mr. Bartley.

241. And how much have they invested?—They have invested upwards of 4,000,000 *l.*, I think.

Mr. Howell.

242. But the point I wanted to get at was, as to its being an outlet, if they desired to save more than the 30 *l.* limit; it has not had that effect, has it, to any large extent in the trustee savings banks?—In a large number of trustee savings banks it has been inoperative altogether.

243. Do you know, that out of the trustee savings banks which do invest, 13 hold more

Mr. Howell—continued.

than three-fourths of the total amount invested?—I think it very likely. Some of the larger banks hold largely.

244. Do you think that there is a disinclination on the part of persons who invest in trustee savings banks and savings banks generally, to deal in stock; that they are rather afraid of it?—I do not know whether it is a disinclination on the part of depositors, or whether it is owing possibly to the fact, that the trustees do not bring the matter prominently to the notice of depositors. I am hardly in a position to say what might be the cause of it.

245. Would depositors greatly benefit, do you think, by that system of utilising their savings?—It would not be much benefit if they bought high and sold low; they have a risk in investing in the Funds which they do not have in deposits.

246. Supposing they bought Goschens a few months ago, and they had now to sell, would they not lose about two per cent. upon the transaction?—No doubt they would in some cases.

Chairman.

247. They might have gained in other cases?—No doubt; some undoubtedly have gained, and on the other hand others have lost.

Mr. Howell.

248. Sir Rivers Wilson, in answer to Question 864, made some complaint with regard to the excessive expenditure by certain banks; do you remember that circumstance?—Yes.

249. Does it not almost strike you that in those cases the bank itself is kept open less for the benefit of the depositors than for the continuance of the banking staff?—I should hardly like to say that in one of the cases in point, although the expenditure appears to the Commissioners to be in excess of what it ought to be.

Mr. Bartley.

250. But it does not in any way impair the stability of the bank?—It does not impair the stability of the bank in any way.

Mr. Howell.

251. Do you consider it good policy, as pursued in some of the banks, to divide the whole of the profits or alleged profits of the bank, between the actuaries and the clerks employed in the banks?—I do not think it good policy; I think the trustees in their own interests, as well as in the interests of the depositors, ought to have a reserve; I think, perhaps, in proportion to the size of the bank; but it would be extremely wise of them to put by something in the event of any accident arising.

252. Do not you think the method itself rather a speculative one?—From one point of view, perhaps, it is; it is trading upon the chance of everything going right at all times.

253. Have instances come to your knowledge in which rules have been made to refuse to pay any interest upon certain amounts; that no interest, for example, would be paid upon sums under 10 *l.*, and that the interest, though drawn from the National Debt Commissioners, has been applied in this way?—I think there is a case of that

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Mr. Howell—continued.

that kind; I forget at the moment which bank it is, but there is a bank, I think, which has a rule of that nature.

Mr. James Campbell.

254. Do you think that is a solitary case?—I think it would be a solitary case.

Mr. Howell.

255. You are not aware of many?—I am not; but I know one case has been brought to my knowledge at one time or another.

Mr. Mowbray.

256. Would that be under a rule certified by the Registrar of Friendly Societies?—They could not do it unless it were under a rule certified in due course. (*The names of two banks having been indicated to the Witness.*)

257. Do you think either of those is the one you have in your mind?—I could not say.

258. Could you refer to the rules of that bank?—I will do so.

Mr. Howell.

259. Would you tell me why it is that the rate of interest paid by the trustee savings banks varies so greatly; there seems to be no rule except what the trustees and managers themselves make; it appears to vary from the full amount to 2*l.* 10*s.*?—It rests entirely with the trustees and managers what rate they will allow.

260. So that they may draw 10*s.* or even 15*s.* from the National Debt Commissioners more than they allow their depositors?—We have no control over them at all; it is an amount fixed by the trustees and the managers in the rules, and agreed to by the depositors.

261. Would you call that an agreement?—In a way it is. In the case, for example, you mentioned just now, where the savings bank allows two per cent. only to the depositors under 30*l.* and 2½ per cent., I think it is above that amount; we always look upon it that if depositors did not like it they could go elsewhere; and to that extent they may be said to agree.

Mr. Bartley.

262. Where is this?—In London.

263. And yet people deposit there?—Yes.

264. They prefer a savings bank in that case under these rules to a Post Office savings bank?—Yes, apparently.

265. Obviously?—I suppose they do not know what they are doing.

Mr. Howell.

266. That is one of the banks at which they do not know what is being done?—Some of the depositors do not.

267. Are you aware that some 67 banks pay 2½ per cent. only; I am going back to the last return?—Sixty-three banks we have put down as paying 2*l.* 10*s.*

268. And how many are there paying from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 2*l.* 15*s.*?—About 113 banks.

269. And are there a number of banks which pay over 2*l.* 15*s.* per cent.?—Those which actually pay 2*l.* 15*s.* number 216.

270. You promised a return or a portion 0.71—1.

Mr. Howell—continued.

of a return just now. Upon that, referring to Question 849, with regard to the intention of the trustee savings banks to continue to increase their deposits, would you furnish a return showing the total deposited and the total withdrawn respectively, from 1862 to 1887?—I think that a return I have already handed in gives the amount deposited, the amount withdrawn, the interest credited, and the balance due to the trustees by the Commissioners now.

271. Following up what was asked with regard to the unclaimed deposits, do not you think on the whole that the effects and the deposit books of a closed bank should be handed over either to the National Debt Commissioners or to the Post Office savings bank, to whom the accounts are transferred, so that there should be some kind of means of reference in the future?—The trustees generally make some provision for the care of the books for a series of years.

272. Are they subject to any arrangement with the National Debt Office?—None whatever; the National Debt Commissioners have no place where they could deposit them or use them if they were wanted.

273. Supposing in the case of Cardiff it were decided to close that bank, and it had been closed, and the accounts had been so far squared up, might not the whole of those books have been destroyed, and all the evidence in that way got rid of?—I believe, in the case of banks which have been closed, cases have arisen some years afterwards which have been settled by the production of books where otherwise there would have been a dispute.

274. Do not you think that provision ought to be made that books relating to the amounts deposited in those banks ought to be preserved under the authority of Government somewhere or somehow?—The difficulty would be in referring to them; we should almost want a staff to make the necessary references to them from time to time; it would be a very difficult thing; we should require a large place for it; I believe the Postmaster General has been asked to take the charge of books in the case of banks which have transferred their accounts to the Post Office, but I think he has found it impossible to take charge of them.

275. Do not you think that they ought in any case to be taken from the hands of the persons who had the management of the affairs of the bank at the time of the closing; they are not the private property of the trustees?—No; the trustees occasionally make a payment, for the purpose of their preservation. In the case of Bristol they made a payment to the Masonic Hall to take charge of the books for 20 years; and in some cases the town have taken charge of the books, and put them away in municipal offices. In many cases, I think, the actuary of a savings bank has given them a place in his private dwelling-house. The books are no good to anybody; they are only wanted for the purpose of reference occasionally.

276. What care is taken, upon the closing of a bank, to see that a proper investigation and appropriation of the money is made; is it made under any supervision by Government at all?—

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Not

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MR. TAYLOR.

[*Continued.*]*Mr. Howell*—continued.

Not that I am aware of; I do not know whether, in the process of closing a bank, the Post Office authorities go through the ledgers themselves to see that every account is extracted; I think not. I think we have to take the statement upon the faith of the declaration made by the trustees that the list of accounts transferred to the Post Office is the list of all the accounts outstanding.

Mr. Bartley.

277. If it were not, I suppose you would very soon hear of it?—I have no doubt we should.

Mr. Howell.

278. Now, with regard to societies such as friendly societies depositing in trustee savings banks, they can deposit without limit, can they not?—Yes.

Chairman.

279. What course do you take with regard to the trades unions; do you allow them to deposit under the same rules as friendly societies?—The National Debt Commissioners have the question at this moment under their consideration.

280. Are you aware that under Mr. Tidd Pratt they were allowed to deposit their balances in exactly the same way as friendly societies, under the Act from 1855 onwards?—I think they were, but I have not made any investigation of that question.

281. Will you think over that matter before your next examination?—Yes; I will be prepared to state what has been done since.

Thursday, 11th April 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Barbour.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.

Mr. Howell.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Shaw Lefevre.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN GEORGE SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. WILLIAM TAYLOR, re-called; and further Examined.

Mr. Howell.

282. Now the question arose upon the last occasion with regard to the depositing by societies in trustee savings banks. I should be glad if you could give the Committee some information with regard to the conditions under which societies can deposit; or I will restrict it, if you like, to a class of societies, viz., trade societies; under what conditions are they permitted to deposit?—I think I am right in saying that the Commissioners would admit a trade society to deposit its funds without limit, provided there were some rules in the society relating to payments for sickness or burial, or even for subscriptions to hospitals or dispensaries; in fact they would accept almost anything as bringing it within the class of charitable societies which were intended by the Act to deposit in savings banks. But in some cases trades union societies have asked permission to invest money with the Commissioners where there was no rule whatever for providing moneys for cases of accident, or sickness, or burial, but which appeared to be societies purely and simply for the trade and nothing else. In those cases the Commissioners have withheld their assent, and the matter has been specially brought before the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I believe an interview will be granted, in which the parties interested, including the Post Office, will be represented before the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the matter will be discussed.

283. You said "recently," I think?—Yes; that has been the rule with the Commissioners, but apparently the Post Office authorities have accepted societies without reference to the National Debt Commissioners in all cases. I understand that they have been advised now, by their solicitor, that every case should be submitted to the National Debt Commissioners.

284. When was the implied rule brought into existence with regard to this distinction between the various descriptions of trade societies?—It was some years ago.

285. Could you tell me about what date it was?—We had an opinion of Mr. Tidd Pratt's, 071.

Mr. Howell—continued.

in 1864, to the effect that a society that was then under consideration as to the investment of its funds would not be able to invest as a charitable society.

286. And that opinion of Mr. Tidd Pratt's, in 1864, you have acted upon since?—Yes, practically; but that society, I may say, was subsequently allowed to invest because Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, thought this class of society might be included under the head of provident or charitable societies.

287. You are aware, are you not, that the law is altogether altered since that date. Before, or at the time that opinion was given, those societies were practically illegal societies; that is to say they had no legal protection for their funds, but they were practically legalised in 1871?—Yes.

288. You know that a further Act took place in 1876 to facilitate the operations of trustees in regard to them?—I have heard it so stated.

289. Therefore the actual position of those societies is altered, is it not?—It will have been altered to that extent.

290. But you still feel some difficulty in accepting a society unless there is specific provision in the rules for sick benefits of some kind or other?—Of some kind or other. Where there is a total absence of any payment which may be called charitable; then there is a doubt as to whether they ought to be included.

291. Those, as far as you know, are not numerous, but some cases have occurred in the last few months?—Yes, the Post Office have recently brought all their cases under the notice of the National Debt Commissioners, and in some cases payments have been stopped pending the decision of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.

292. You, acting as chief clerk and accountant, have nothing to do then with those deposits of those charitable or other societies with the savings banks?—Not with the policy of accepting them.

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293. The

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MR. TAYLOR.

[Continued.]

Mr. Brodie Hoare—continued.

293. The facts may come before you as accountant?—Yes.

294. You simply recognise them as an accountant, and not in any way as having control of them or feeling it necessary to call any attention to facts of that nature?—Not necessarily; if anything special did happen to come under my notice, I should bring it under the notice of Sir Rivers Wilson.

295. That is to say unofficially?—Officially or otherwise, according to the nature of the case.

296. But it is not your business to discriminate in any way between a society which may deposit, and a society which may not; your business is to see that the accounts are right, is it not?—Yes; it is not my business to decide whether a society may deposit or not; that is settled by the Comptroller General or the Assistant Comptroller.

Mr. Moubray.

297. You suggested on the last occasion the possibility of sending some one down from the National Debt Office to inquire into the accounts. I refer you to your Answer No. 21?—I think that if we were able to send down we might be able to find out discrepancies without the necessity for an inquiry under the Act.

298. Did not you say in your previous answer that you thought it might be possible for a Commissioner to go and make inquiry?—Yes; but I do not think it would be advisable for the National Debt Commissioners to undertake that duty.

299. Have you any other suggestion to offer as to any other greater power which might be exercised by the National Debt Commissioners?—I have not. I should not be in favour of the National Debt Commissioners taking any further responsibility upon themselves in regard to those matters.

300. If you were to send anybody down from the National Debt Commissioners it would practically amount to the auditing of an account, would it not?—It would amount to that, I am afraid, before we had done. We should be obliged to have an exhaustive inquiry if we had any; in most cases at all events.

301. So that it practically would come to a Government audit?—Yes, to a Government audit.

Mr. James Campbell.

302. You mentioned on the last occasion that there are several banks which are in a state of decay; can you say that those banks belong to any particular class; are they large banks or small banks?—I think, generally speaking, without investigating each case, that they are more or less the smaller banks.

303. You mean by being in a state of decay that their business is not flourishing?—Dwindling away by degrees.

304. Can you say that you think this is caused by the special circumstances of individual banks, or caused by the general circumstances of the locality?—I think it is due in some measure to the fact that Post Office savings banks are found convenient in many localities; we are not in a position to say that it is due to any circum-

Mr. James Campbell—continued.

stance in connection with the individual bank; we do not know enough of the circumstances to warrant us in saying that.

305. You do not think it can be said of the larger banks that they are in a state of decay?—I think the larger banks are more looked after, and that the business is more whipped up than in the smaller banks.

306. And they are not increasing their business?—Some of them are increasing rather than decreasing; but the general tendency of the savings banks is to decrease, as the Paper I have put in shows. There are, however, cases in which the funds have increased instead of decreasing, but those would be cases probably in which the officers of the bank were very active, and took an interest in increasing the efficiency of the bank.

307. You are aware that it is found that in the case of large banks well conducted, there are greater facilities afforded to the public than with the Post Office savings banks?—It may be the case in some, as I said; in those which are open daily, and where payment is made over the counter of small sums; in those cases there may be greater facilities to depositors than there is even in the Post Office, which gives great facilities.

308. Your office, I think, takes no cognisance of the internal administration of savings banks?—No; we have nothing to do with the internal administration of savings banks.

309. Nor do you know what security is taken from the officers?—Yes, we know that. We have no power to direct the security which is to be taken, but where a savings bank is in the habit, it may be, of keeping a certain cash balance in the hands of the treasurer, and the treasurer gives what appears to the Commissioners to be inadequate security, we frequently call the attention of the trustees to the fact that the security given is not adequate to the amount of money held.

310. Are you aware that there is a very great difference in the practice of different banks upon this point, as to the amount of security taken from the officers?—Yes, there is a great difference.

Mr. Barbour.

311. I understood you to say on the last occasion that some of the banks were conducted at a loss, or it seemed to be accepted as a probability that they were; I wish to ascertain how the loss is made up when it had so happened?—We know of no savings bank where the profits are not sufficient to meet the liabilities to depositors for interest, and the expenses of management, at present. I do not think there is one. There are banks in which the profits are diminishing, and where the trustees have had to reduce their expenditure in order to make both ends meet; but some where they have not been able to cover their expenses by some means or other. In order to avoid anything like that occurring, we have often drawn the attention of trustees of savings banks to the fact, that unless a reduction in the expenditure takes place there will be a deficiency in the savings bank.

312. You said that anything like an inspection by

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Mr. TAYLOR.

[Continued.]

Sir John Dorington.

by the National Debt Office would lead, practically, to a Government audit; do you think it would be impracticable to draw a distinction between a travelling inspector dropping in occasionally to see that the rules were carried out, and a complete Government audit?—I hardly think that a travelling inspection would be enough for us to undertake. The National Debt Commissioners would no be satisfied if they undertook the personal supervision of savings banks without going thoroughly into the accounts.

313. It rather appears from what we have heard here, that all irregularities in the banks have arisen from not following out the rules prescribed as regards the double note of every transaction; and if the travelling inspector were to drop in upon a bank and found that no rules were being observed, he might make a report to that effect?—He might to that extent, but I think the effect of it would be to lead the trustees to think that we were watching the case for them, and it might tend to make them more careless. I do not think, from my experience of those savings bank accounts, that I should like to have anything to do with them, unless I could go into them thoroughly and look into everything.

Chairman.

314. You told the Committee on the last occasion that since November 1888, 17 banks had been closed and 14 more were in process of closing; are there any large banks amongst those; can you give the Committee a list of the banks showing the amount of their deposits; that is to say, of those 17 and 14?—I have not that information with me this morning.

315. Perhaps you could put a Paper in, showing the names of the banks and the amount of their deposits?—I could. I think I said that about 560,000 £. was the total.

316. Were you in correspondence with any others?—We have had questions from, it may be, 10 or a dozen banks, in addition to those, but nothing has come of it yet; still questions have been asked relative to closing.

317. Have you any reason to believe that this process has been going on, and that there has been a likelihood of small banks being closed?—Yes, I think it has been going on.

318. Is that on the ground of the advantage of people finding the greater convenience of Post Office banks over the small banks which are only open once a week, or once a fortnight; or is it on account of the unwillingness of trustees to incur responsibility any longer?—I think the unwillingness of the trustees to incur responsibility has a great deal to do with it. The inquiry into the Cardiff Bank has led a great many trustees to conclude that it is time for them to limit their responsibilities.

319. You think that has been the main motive?—I think it has been the main motive.

320. Do you think that the Cardiff Bank has produced that effect upon them?—I think it has had a great effect upon them.

321. Or do you think it has been due to this inquiry, and to the discussions which took place in the House of Commons?—I think it is more due to the Cardiff case than to the inquiry here.

0.71.

Chairman—continued.

322. In the banks that were closed last year has there been any deficiency?—No.

323. I am referring to the 18 banks which were closed in 1888, and to the 17 banks which were closed since the 20th November 1888; has there been any deficiency there?—In none of them.

324. Therefore the depositors will not suffer in those cases?—They will not suffer in any of those cases.

325. Is there any surplus to pay compensation to the officers in some of them?—Yes; in several there is a fund out of which to pay compensation to the officers.

326. In the case of a bank which is only open one day a week, is it the custom to give any compensation there to the officers?—Yes; I do not think the National Debt Commissioners have drawn the line, provided there has been a fund out of which compensation could be paid.

327. Would an officer be entitled, where he has been only at work for one day in the week, to any compensation upon the closing of the bank?—I think he would be considered entitled to compensation; but in cases where the surplus has been small the compensation has not reached the amount to which the officers, would have been entitled by length of service.

328. What is the process in closing a bank?—The process in closing a bank is, that the National Debt Commissioners notify the Postmaster General that a bank is going to be closed, and the Postmaster General endeavours to make arrangements with the savings bank trustees to send officers from the Post Office to assist in the closing and to take over any deposits which the depositors may choose to hand over to the Post Office.

329. Are all depositors given the option of handing over their deposits to the Post Office, or are they handed over as a matter of course, unless the depositors object?—No; each depositor has the option of transferring his deposit to the Post Office or taking his deposit in cash; he can do which he likes. He has also the option of transferring to another trustee savings bank.

330. Then the funds are not handed over to the Post Office before they are returned to the depositor?—No; there are generally a few days set aside for the actual process of closing, and during those few days, perhaps, the bulk of the deposits will have been dealt with one way or another; a very large proportion of them, at all events. Then there is a remanet, and that remanet is ultimately transferred upon a schedule; a list of the outstanding deposits is included in the schedule, the whole amount of which is transferred to the Post Office savings bank. I am supposing that three-fourths of the amount due to depositors has been previously paid off in one way or another as provided by the Act.

331. Where the National Debt Commissioners have ascertained that there is a surplus sufficient to pay all the depositors in full, would it not be possible to hand over the funds to the Post Office, giving to the depositors the right of calling upon the Post Office for their deposits?—Yes; I think it might be possible to do that, if we could be certain that there would be no deficiency upon the closing.

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332. I am

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Mr. TAYLOR.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

332. I am assuming that the National Debt Commissioners have satisfied themselves that there is no deficiency?—It would be very difficult to do that. We know of a case in which we thought the assets were sufficient to meet the liabilities; but about the end of the process of closing, it suddenly transpired that the assets were not sufficient to meet the liabilities. We might have other cases of that nature, although it might be fairly presumed, where the assets are shown by the accounts to be sufficient, that they would be so.

333. Do you know how the error arose in that case?—We have not heard how it arose; but we have heard to this extent, that the late actuary, who died some seven or eight years ago, is the officer in fault, and that from his death up to the present time the trustees had never had any reason whatever to think that anything had gone wrong in the savings bank.

Mr. Howell.

334. And the auditor had not discovered it?—The auditor had not discovered it.

Chairman.

335. Does it turn out that the entries are false, and that the total entries in the books do not tally with the real liabilities of the bank?—As far as I know, their liabilities are considerably greater than they were expected to be, but we have not yet the figures enabling us to say exactly what the difference is.

336. That would look as if the totals were falsified in some way or other, because upon the face of the accounts there was sufficient to pay the depositors?—Yes; and it is a curious thing that so many years should have elapsed without anything having transpired.

337. You have put in a Return, from which it appears that out of 19 banks which were closed in the year ending November 1888, out of a total sum of 1,116,000 £. due to depositors, the sum of 890,000 £. was transferred to the Post Office?—Yes, I added that; I thought it would be interesting to the Committee.

338. Was that by agreement, with the consent of the depositors?—Yes, with the consent of the depositors, and in the closing schedules as well; but the closing schedules represent a small amount comparatively.

339. It appears that there were only two banks in that Return with a deposit of over 50,000 £.; one with 90,000 £., and the other, the Bristol Bank, with 511,000 £.?—Yes.

340. The others were all small banks with under 50,000 £.?—Yes.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

341. When securities are held under Section 16, are the National Debt Commissioners bound to have information of it?—No, the savings banks are not bound to return any of their transactions under that section to the National Debt Commissioners.

342. Those investments are subject to the rules of the bank?—Yes.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley—continued.

343. Do those rules have to be certified by your representative?—By the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

344. Would that department have the information as to the state of the rules in each bank?—We have a copy of the rules of each savings bank lodged with us, and we know that the banks which operate under that rule have the power to do so.

345. Then the banks named in this return handed in by you would be the only banks which have availed themselves of that section?—The only banks which have availed themselves of that section. Some other banks have the rule, but have not used it. On page 146 of the Report of last year there is a list of the banks which have the rule, and those with the asterisk against them are the only ones which have availed themselves of it.

346. Do the rules under this Section 16 usually limit and define the class of securities in which the bank may invest under that section?—Yes, they do in many cases; in some cases they have what we call a general power of investment, and there is no definition.

347. There they are practically unlimited?—They are practically unlimited in those cases.

348. What returns, if any, are made of the investments actually made under that section?—The only return which is made in respect of these investments is the return moved for in Parliament annually. The last Return, P.P. 63 of Session 1888.

349. Is there any obligation to make a return?—None whatever. Prior to this Return being moved for in Parliament, we were in the habit of asking the trustees to furnish the figures. In some cases they furnished them, but only under protest; they did not consider we had any right to ask for them.

350. Did they in any case refuse?—No; in no case did they absolutely refuse.

Mr. Bartley.

351. You say that your checking of the accounts is "arithmetically correct," but that you cannot go beyond that; what do you mean by "beyond that"?—They are arithmetically correct as regards the Classification Accounts.

352. Which are sent up to you?—Which are sent up to us.

353. That is to say, if the papers which are sent up to you upon the face of them look correct, you take them as correct?—We examine everything in the general statement which it is possible to examine. We take the items in rotation, and we examine them with our books.

354. Did you examine those returns from Cardiff?—We did.

355. Year by year?—Yes.

356. Were they all satisfactory?—As far as we could ascertain, they were.

357. Then your check as regards the Cardiff Bank was quite useless?—Perfectly useless.

358. Do you think that your check can by any possibility save any fraud?—Yes, I think it can.

359. Has it ever done so?—We have been able

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Mr. TAYLOR.

[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

able to discover errors in the savings bank accounts by applying our check.

360. Your check discovers error, but it does not discover fraud?—It does not necessarily discover fraud. If there be anything wrong in the accounts of a savings bank, we cannot tell whether the error that does occur arises from fraud or simply from mistakes.

361. As a matter of fact, I understand that during the last 20 or 30 years you have had a great many complaints to make of irregularities in the accounts; is that so?—The plan we adopt now, I think, I commenced some 12 years ago.

362. And you have had many irregularities, have you not?—We have discovered many irregularities.

363. Have you ever discovered a fraud?—No, we have never discovered a fraud; but we consider that, had the trustees of the Sevenoaks and Bishop Stortford Savings Banks paid due attention to our letters and investigated our queries properly, the frauds would have been discovered in consequence of our queries.

364. Am I to take it from you that you have never discovered any of those frauds?—No, not one of them.

365. In spite of all the control of the National Debt Commissioners, you have never discovered any fraud?—No, not any.

366. Do you consider that there are any means by which you could detect fraud?—I do not think we could take any steps beyond those we do take. I think we have done everything in our power to try to discover anything that could be discovered.

367. Do I take it from you that, in your opinion, it is beyond the power of the National Debt Commissioners to detect fraud in those banks?—Yes; unless fraud is proved in consequence of any query which we may have to address to the trustees.

368. But such a thing has not yet happened?—Such a thing has not yet happened.

369. In all those hundreds of banks during all those years?—No such thing has happened. I may say that it is very disappointing to us, after all our trouble, that we have not been the means of discovering any case of the kind.

370. You consider it very unsatisfactory after all the trouble you have taken that your check has been useless?—I do not think it has been useless, because we have put the trustees on the track of keeping their accounts correctly, but in the way of actually discovering fraud, we have been unsuccessful.

371. Do you consider the whole system of the accounts of trustee savings banks unsatisfactory?—I could not say that in general terms in regard to some of the banks, because we have no reason to doubt that in many banks it is satisfactory.

372. I think that was the expression you used; but do you consider, as I believe you do, that the power of control in the National Debt Office might be increased, and do you think it should be?—No. I do not think it should be.

373. Do you think it should be left exactly as it is?—It does not appear to be quite satisfactory
0.71.

Mr. Bartley—continued.

now, but I should not like to increase it. Unless we had a very great deal more power, I do not think we had better increase it in any way.

374. If you had a great deal more power, in what way would you increase your power?—In the way of taking complete control of the savings banks.

375. Would you recommend that?—I would not.

376. And you think that, short of that, you could not possibly do more than you do?—I think not.

377. And you acknowledge that what you do has never yet discovered a fraud?—Yes, I acknowledge that.

378. You have seen, of course, this return from the National Debt Office of last Christmas, concerning the number of banks that have failed?—Yes. (P. P. 427, 1888.)

379. You know that there have been several which have closed and failed?—Yes.

380. Do you know in how many cases there have been losses?—Not beyond what is stated here; this return was not prepared by me.

381. By your office?—Yes, it was prepared by our office. It is stated in the notes in some cases that "The depositors suffered no loss," or that "There was no ultimate loss to the depositors."

382. Is it not the fact that since the passing of the Act of 1863, except Cardiff now under investigation, there have been only two banks in which there has been any loss at all?—I should not like to answer that question without further information.

383. After your office prepared this return, was not there a loss of 600 l. at the Bishop Stortford Bank?—Yes, there was a loss of some such amount.

384. Was not there a loss of 689 l. at the Chertsey Bank?—Yes.

385. Was there a loss in any other of those banks since the Act of 1863 passed?—Those are all the cases, I think, that we have been able to discover in which there were losses. If those are the only two on that return they are all that we have been able to discover.

386. Do you agree that this return is correct, coming from your own office?—Yes.

387. Since the passing of the Act of 1863, should I be right in saying that, except Cardiff now under investigation, there have been only two losses to the gross amount of 1,289 l.?—Yes, as far as we have been able to ascertain.

388. I suppose you would not be able to discover all. Is it not the fact that in the 25 years which have elapsed since 1863, the average payments into and takings from the savings banks, have amounted to about 4,000,000 l. sterling a year; that is about it, is it not, or if not, what is about the amount in and out of the savings banks in a year?—Speaking from memory, I thought it would have been more than that in the total. I thought about 9,000,000 l. in and out.

389. If it be nine millions a year for 25 years, how many millions have passed through those banks?—£. 225,000,000.

390. Do I take it from you, then, that out of transactions over 25 years, representing over
c 2 200,000,000 l.,

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Mr. TAYLOR.

[*Continued.*]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

200,000,000 *l.*, there has been a loss of 1,289 *l.*?
—Yes, as far as we know.

391. Do you consider that a satisfactory result?—I should certainly not like to say it was not satisfactory; it might have been much worse.

392. Do you think there is any institution in the world, including the Bank of England, which could show such a record?—Then there is the Cardiff case to be recollected.

393. With the exception of the Cardiff case?—And another we know of since, which is not under investigation at present.

394. But even including those, with such an enormous turn over, do you think such a result satisfactory?—Yes.

395. And that in spite of your office not being able to detect fraud when it occurred?—Yes.

396. Do you not think that some credit is due to the trustees and managers of those banks?—Certainly. I think a great deal is due to the trustees and managers of those banks.

397. Do you think that institutions doing such an enormous business with such a little loss are to be ruthlessly got rid of?—No, by no means.

398. Then you said something about the Audit Department; are you satisfied with the Audit Department?—We have nothing whatever to do with the Audit Department.

399. You do not consider that you are an audit department?—Not the National Debt Commissioners.

400. You do not consider that you are?—Not by any means; we do not go into the details of the accounts, as an auditor would, at all.

401. Do you consider that those banks being open of an evening is a great advantage?—Yes, it is an advantage to many depositors.

402. Have you ascertained since the last meeting of the Committee how many Post Office savings banks are open of an evening?—No. I have taken steps about it, but I have not been able to get the information yet. I find the Post Office savings banks, in large towns and in provincial towns, are generally open on Saturdays till eight o'clock at night, and very frequently on Friday nights till seven o'clock.

403. But are not the great bulk of the trustee savings banks open in the evening?—Yes; without analysing very carefully, you can hardly tell when they are open.

404. Is it not a feature of them to be so open?—Yes.

405. Is not that to a great extent the cause of their success?—No doubt that contributes to their success.

406. Then you were asked some questions about depositors buying Consols, and I understood from you that that was not a popular investment?—Did I say that it was not popular? The practice has not gone to the extent, perhaps, to which it might have been expected it would go. The savings banks have purchased a little over a million, or, at least, they hold a million Consols at the present day; 1,100,000 *l.* would be nearer the mark.

407. Do not you think that instead of such a large amount as 100,000,000 *l.*, or over, being held at call, it would be very desirable if we

Mr. Bartley—continued.

could get the depositors to put their money directly into Consols?—I do.

408. Do you think that they would do this if they were educated up to it, and understood it?—I should hardly like to say; I have been informed that depositors often ask, "Shall we get our money out again the same as we put in, sovereign for sovereign?" and when they have been told, "Well, you may get a little more, or you may get a little less," they have said, "Then it will not do for me."

409. You think they rather object to being submitted, like everybody else, to run the risk of the prosperity or want of prosperity of the country?—Yes, they object to run the risk of a fall in the funds.

410. Do you think that we should guarantee them to the extent of 100,000,000 *l.*?—I do not think so.

411. Do not you think it is fair to say that 100,000,000 *l.* would cover all the small depositors?—Yes.

412. Would you not agree that after a man has got 200 *l.* invested and secured in that way, he ought to be responsible for the contingencies which may arise upon his further deposits?—Yes; I think he ought to be.

413. You said that some banks gave no interest upon deposits under 10 *l.*?—Yes, I said so; I have, however, made a careful search for that particular case, but I have not found it at present. I had only got it in my view; I had not previously thought of it; but after the question was put I thought I remembered one case.

414. You have not found it out yourself?—I have not had much time to investigate the case since Monday, but I will try to find out the case I was thinking about.

415. Anyway it would be a very uncommon thing?—It would be a very uncommon thing, and it may be that I am wrong, even in that case.

416. You say the rate of interest in those banks varies from 2 *l.* 10 *s.* to 2 *l.* 15 *s.* per cent.?—From 2 *l.* 10 *s.* to 2 *l.* 15 *s.*; one bank gives 2 *l.* per cent. for deposits under 30 *l.*

417. Is that a bank in a large city?—It is in London.

418. Has it a large number of depositors?—Yes, it has a large number of depositors.

419. And yet people prefer to deposit in that bank on those terms to going to the Post Office?—They do deposit there.

420. Can you account at all for that; is there any reason for it?—No, I cannot account for it at all, unless it is some personal influence in the savings bank which draws them, or keeps them there.

421. Do not you think the reason is likely to be that they find the Trustee savings bank more convenient for them than the Post Office savings bank?—I should hardly like to say, unless I knew more of the circumstances.

422. Do not you think that it is upon the face of it probable?—I think they have got used to the savings bank; and they keep their money there, and they do not exactly understand that they might get a little more interest elsewhere.

423. What

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[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

423. What bank do you refer to?—The Marylebone Savings Bank.

424. That is a large bank, is it not?—Yes, it is a large bank; it has 300,000*l.* capital.

425. But surely it is obvious that in the case of any bank with that large amount of capital in it there must be something besides personal feeling to induce people to deposit in that way?—Nothing that has come under the notice of the National Debt Commissioners.

426. Then you spoke on the last occasion about decaying banks; have you looked over that part of your evidence?—No, but I have it now before me.

427. What did you mean by your expression “decaying banks”?—Banks whose capital is gradually decreasing.

428. Do you mean deposits by “capital”?—Banks where the deposits are gradually decreasing.

429. Are there many of those?—Yes, there are a great many banks whose capital is decreasing.

430. Yet the sum total until last year has increased?—Up till last year it has increased.

431. Is it not a continuous increase up to last year?—Yes; but that arises more from the interest than from the actual deposit that was put in.

432. Then I understand you consider the interest is not a deposit?—It is a deposit in a sense, unquestionably.

433. Is it not just the same as any other deposit?—Yes; they might take the interest out, and pay it in as a cash deposit.

434. And some do so, I suppose?—It is very likely they do.

435. You do not mean to suggest then that because a bank has a large amount of interest and not so large an amount of other deposits, that it is decaying, do you?—No; but I refer to cases where the amount due to the depositors has gradually decreased from year to year; I have not an example with me.

Mr. Howell.

436. Would there be any objection to your putting in a return showing the decrease which is due to interest?—It could be obtained; we could take it from a comparison of the various annual returns.

Mr. Bartley.

437. You have told the Committee that you have rather strained the law in one bank by ordering it to close?—Not ordering it, but we recommended it.

438. You put strong pressure upon them?—Yes; where the accounts of the bank had been unsatisfactory for a long time to the National Debt Commissioners, we thought it might be a question whether we ought not to ask for an inquiry; then if the trustees, instead of that, liked to bring their operations to a close, it would be open to them to do so.

439. In what way were the accounts unsatisfactory?—The interest allowed to depositors did not appear to us to be the correct amount in all cases.

440. Had you any idea of fraud there?—None 0.71.

Mr. Bartley—continued.

whatever; it is impossible for us to say whether fraud may exist or not. We notice, perhaps, that the profits in a particular year are considerably less or considerably more than in the previous year, and we naturally try to find out why those profits have altered; and if we are confirmed in our opinion that the amount of interest which has been allowed is apparently incorrect, we refer the matter to the trustees, and where we get no satisfactory information whatever, a doubt naturally remains upon our mind of the accuracy of the accounts of the bank.

441. Then, as a further question, I ask you, have you any idea as to how the control may be made more efficient, or as to the means by which the relation of those banks to your office may be rendered such as you think it ought to be?—I think if the trustees rigidly carried out the requirements of the Savings Bank Act of 1863, we should be perfectly satisfied with the work done by them.

442. Then do I understand that all the powers you want are powers to enable you to see that they do do that, or how do you intend to enforce that?—It is hardly for me to speak as to the policy.

443. I do not want the policy, but the machinery?—I only say that if the trustees did thoroughly carry out the Act of 1863, there would be very little room left for anything going wrong with the savings banks.

444. There would be very little room for the National Debt Commissioners, would there, in that case, because everything would go right without them? But after all is not that only begging the question? What we want to know is in what way could you suggest that any legislation could secure the carrying out of the Act, either through your office or in any other way?—It might be carried out by making the trustees responsible personally in case of anything going wrong.

445. Do you think that any human being would remain a trustee if that were the case?—I think it very likely that they would refuse to be trustees.

446. What would be the result of that?—In that case the banks must close, supposing they were unable to replace their trustees.

447. Do you think that would be desirable, bearing in view the facts I have elicited from you just now, that 200,000,000 *l.* sterling have passed through those banks in 25 years, with these almost infinitesimally small results of fraud and loss; would you be prepared to suggest that?—I do not say that I should be prepared to suggest it, but I certainly do not see any other way of, so to speak, insisting upon accuracy in all the accounts of a savings bank.

448. But do not you see obviously that such a proposal as that would mean the destruction of the banks?—Unquestionably it would in some cases; I do not know how far it would extend.

449. Now during the last year, since this discussion has been going on, you have closed a good many banks, have you not; at all events a good many banks have been closed?—Yes.

450. Do not you think that a good deal of that is

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[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

is due to the trustees becoming alarmed?—Unquestionably it is.

451. Is it not the fact that a great number of those banks have been closed which were perfectly sound?—Yes.

452. Which were doing excellent work?—Yes, which were doing excellent work in their sphere.

453. And those have been closed?—Yes, those have been closed.

454. Do you think that has promoted thrift?—I can hardly say that I think it has hindered it in any way, because we know that a very large proportion of the deposits have gone to the Post Office savings bank where they will be absolutely safe.

455. But judging from the return which you have handed in, is not there a margin of something like 400,000 £ which has not gone to the Post Office?—Between 300,000 £ and 400,000 £.

456. Out of 1,250,000 £.?—Yes.

457. Do you consider that a large proportion?—A portion of that even has gone to the Post Office.

458. You think it has; you do not know?—I believe it is a fact that although a great many people take their money out, several of them do put it into the Post Office banks afterwards.

459. They may put it into other banks?—Yes.

Mr. Howell.

460. Are you not aware that, in the case of the closing of some of those banks, some of the local banks made overtures to the depositors to deposit with them?—I know that was so.

461. That was notably the case in Hereford?—I believe there was such an attempt in Hereford; it was the case with several banks.

462. So that the difference could not necessarily mean a squandering away of the money?—No.

Mr. Bartley.

463. But if a person who is in the habit of saving gets a certain number of sovereigns into his pocket the tendency is that a good deal of it would be squandered, is it not?—Yes, no doubt.

464. Is it not possible that if we were to adopt a plan which would decrease the deposits in the savings banks, there would be a considerable squandering of money which had been put aside?—Yes.

465. Do not you think, therefore, that we should be very careful in taking any steps to close their doors?—Yes; I do not think we ought to frighten them into closing at all. Whatever closing there has been has taken place, not in consequence of any official pressure which has been put upon them, but in consequence of their being alarmed.

Chairman.

466. Mainly through the alarm generated by the Cardiff case?—I think the Cardiff case had a great deal to do with it.

Mr. Bartley.

467. You think you have very little control in your office over the security of those banks; do I take it to be the case that your office exercises

Mr. Bartley—continued.

very little supervision over the soundness of these banks?—That is so.

468. And you do not advocate that you should have greater power?—I do not think we should.

469. You do not advocate that those banks should be closed?—I think, as regards some of the smaller banks, I would not compulsorily close them.

470. Would you put pressure upon the trustees to close?—In cases where it was evident that the bank was beginning to feel the pinch of the want of income, we might represent the facts to the trustees, and ask them what they proposed to do in the event of the income being insufficient to meet all their engagements for salaries and otherwise; and then those that were unable to provide for the necessary expenses would necessarily be directed into the channel for closing.

471. Do you think that the initiative ought to come from your office?—In some cases we take the initiative now.

472. But do you think you ought to take it generally in the future?—We should never do it except in an extreme case.

473. Then how would you set about closing the smaller banks?—By our office suggesting it.

474. Then the pressure would still come from your office?—If we were to set about it by calling the attention of the trustees, it would. We could call the attention of the trustees to the fact that the income was getting smaller, and that it did not appear that as the expenses were at present it could much longer meet those expenses; and we might ask what steps they proposed to take to meet them. The trustees would consider the matter, and they would say, "We do not see our way to reduce the salaries, and we do not like to reduce the interest to depositors; therefore we think it the better plan to close the bank."

475. You do not propose that your office should be made the agency for frightening the banks?—I do not propose that our office should be made the agency, but it would be more or less their duty to bring these facts to the notice of the trustees.

476. If you did that, how many banks do you think you would close?—There might be only one or two in a twelvemonth; but I should think that the National Debt Commissioners would never do it wholesale; it would only be in one case now and then that they would adopt that course.

477. Then the policy of the National Debt Commissioners would be to maintain those banks as much as possible?—Yes, and not to frighten them into closing.

478. Then I gather from you that the National Debt Commissioners have no wish to close those banks?—I think I might say we have no wish to close them.

479. They rather wish to see them grow?—Yes.

480. You do not wish to smash up those banks, do you?—I do not think Sir Rivers Wilson would say that it was the wish of the office to smash up any bank; the office has no animus against the banks.

481. Is

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Mr. TAYLOR.

[Continued.]

Mr. Howell.

481. Is it not the fact that quite prior to this inquiry you had been constantly calling the attention of trustees to what, for the want of a better word, I will call "irregularities;" so that quite irrespective of Cardiff, or Sevenoaks, or Bishop Stortford, or Macclesfield, you have had occasion to call attention to them?—Yes, long before any inquiry or public attention was directed to the question of savings banks, we did, where it appeared necessary to the Commissioners, call the attention of the trustees to apparent discrepancies in their accounts.

482. So that it is no new thing upon the part of the Commissioners?—Not at all.

483. I will call your attention to a trustee bank which, in order to meet their engagements for the year, have had to owe their actuary 40 l. one year, and carry it on to another year; have you not, in that case, had to call the attention of the trustees to the fact that the accounts did not appear to balance themselves?—I think we have had to call the attention of the trustees to the fact that if the salaries had been paid up to date there might have been a deficiency.

484. So that in a case of that description you would feel it to be your duty to call the attention of the trustees to it if it came under your notice?—Yes, it would come under my notice. In any instance of that sort we should draw the attention of the trustees to the fact.

Mr. Mowbray.

485. Is that the case referred to on page 161 of the Appendix, as to which you answered the honourable Member just now?—I am not sure whether that was the case. This is a specific case where we knew that there was a very small surplus, and we discovered that the salaries were

Mr. Mowbray—continued.

not paid up to date; that was the case of the Burnley Savings Bank.

486. Were you answering generally just now, or had you a specific case in your mind?—I was answering generally just now.

487. Are you aware of any other specific instance, besides the one referred to in this Appendix?—By referring to the books we could find other instances.

488. I ask you that because this Paper was handed in with reference to a question of Mr. Howell's (No. 1331 of last year), which is substantially the same as the question he asked you just now?—We have had other cases of a similar kind. We only gave this one because it was referred to specially by Mr. Howell; that is the reason for referring to that one in particular.

489. You cannot give any other instance?—I think by going through our books we could find other instances.

Mr. Whitley.

490. At all events, the instances are very few requiring the total closing of any bank?—That is so.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

491. There is a form sent out from time to time from your office; the form begins "Savings Bank at _____, in the county of _____;" do not you think it would be better if that form required the return to state the actual name or title adopted by the bank, in order that in case they did not follow the form of the Act of Parliament, you should be made aware of it. That rather offers, does it not, an opportunity to a bank to describe itself by a different name from that by which they actually describe themselves to their own depositors?—Yes, it does so.

Mr. EUSTACE BOOKER, called in; and Examined.

Mr. Howell.

492. You have filled the position of Actuary in the Farringdon Street Savings Bank, have you not?—Yes, I was assistant actuary first, and actuary subsequently.

493. For how long did you hold the position of actuary?—I was appointed assistant actuary (I will deal with that first, if you will allow me) in 1868; then I was appointed actuary in 1885, or somewhere about that time; I will not tie myself to the precise date, but during the whole period I will say I was responsible for the active portion of the conduct of the business.

494. What salary was attached to the offices respectively?—The salary of the assistant actuary was 40 l., and of the actuary 60 l., purely nominal amounts.

495. What clerks had you in the office?—There was a cashier and an additional clerk ultimately appointed.

496. As a matter of fact, did the salary attached to the office of actuary recompense you for the time you devoted to the duty?—In no respect whatever; I think if when the bank closed I had been presented with a cheque

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Mr. Howell—continued.

for 1,500 l. or 2,000 l., it would barely have compensated me for the 15 or 20 years' extra work that had been entailed upon me.

497. I think at the time the bank closed it had been in great difficulties, and it demanded a great deal of your time, did it not?—Yes. About 30 years ago, I believe, the cashier and ledger clerk conspired, and a fraud was committed amounting to 2,000 l. or 3,000 l. The trustees and managers were called on to consider the position of the bank, and it was determined to close it; but a certain section thought it was desirable to carry it on, as it would be a loss to the neighbourhood if it were closed; and they had a whip round and subscribed about 1,500 l., and with that we set to work to diminish and pay off the loss which had been incurred.

498. Those extra demands upon your time continued, I believe, for many years afterwards?—It was a constant source of anxiety. I do not know that the defalcation added very much to the time employed, but it was a constant anxiety, never ceasing.

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499. A

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Mr. BOOKER.

[Continued.]

Mr. Howell—continued.

499. As actuary, were you invariably in attendance when the business of the bank was being transacted?—No, because there was an assistant actuary, and a clerk, and also a cashier; so there were always two paid officers present during all the time the business was being conducted, which complied with the provisions of the Act, our bank being open for more than six hours a week, it being open eight hours, in fact.

500. In your absence, were the clerks instructed as to the business the bank might transact?—All our clerks that we employed at the bank had grown up in the office, and they were thoroughly acquainted with the savings bank business; but I was generally present, or if I were not present, my partner, the assistant actuary was, and any point of difficulty which arose would be referred to me or to him to settle and deal with.

501. And you would have held yourself responsible for the methods of doing business in your absence?—Unquestionably.

502. Were the declarations taken in all cases as provided by the law when a new depositor brought his money?—In every case. I should be very much surprised to learn anything to the contrary. They are bound in a book and numbered, the printed numbers in the pass-book corresponding with the numbers in the declaration book; therefore it is impossible to miss one.

503. What was the salary paid to those clerks?—The clerk had 25 *l.* a year; he was regularly employed in our office also; that was in addition to his salary.

504. Could you state the days of the week the bank was open for the transaction of business?—On Monday from 12 to 2, and on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9.

505. How many trustees were there in connection with the Farringdon-street bank?—I should say not more than six or eight active ones.

506. You had a large number, had you not?—Of trustees, not very many; of managers, 30 or 40; but of trustees, only about six.

507. How many of them took an active interest in the affairs of the bank?—I think you may say six or eight.

508. Did any of those attend for the receipt or withdrawal of deposits or cash from the bank?—Very unusually, because there was no necessity for it with the paid officers present; the business was done by the paid officers as provided by the clause in the Act.

509. So that, in reality, the major portion of the receipts and payments, and the general transactions of the bank were carried on in the absence of the trustees and managers?—Unquestionably.

510. Were any of the transactions countersigned by the trustees and managers of the bank who were not present at the transactions?—When you say “countersigned,” do you mean the cash book?

511. No, the weekly returns sent up to the Government?—They would sign them upon information, and seeing the results put upon paper of the daily takings.

512. But not from their own knowledge?—No,

Mr. Howell—continued.

not from their own knowledge. They would see the banker's book to see the results verified; but then every month there was a committee meeting, and the weekly returns were laid before them, and they could see that they corresponded with the general results that were transmitted.

513. But do not you think that the provisions in that Act aim at the trustees and managers seeing the transactions for which they sign?—I think not as regards banks which are open for more than six hours a week. I think, on the contrary, it distinctly provides that they shall not be present, or, at least, it says that it is not obligatory that they shall be present, which would seem to imply the contrary.

514. So that, in reality, the accounts they signed, which are forwarded to the National Debt Commissioners, were upon the authority of the clerks and the actuary who paid the accounts?—That is so, as regards the receipt and payments.

515. I suppose you found really a difficulty in obtaining the presence of the trustees and managers during banking hours to supervise the detailed working of the bank?—Yes; and in our case you must recognise the difficulty we had in getting trustees and managers at all. I had great difficulty in approaching any man with this millstone of debt around my neck; therefore, I was rather handicapped, if I may use the expression, compared with other banks in getting the assistance of trustees and managers. I could not approach the outer world for trustees and managers without explaining the circumstances of our deficit.

516. The circumstances of the deficit never appeared in any Return presented to Parliament, did they?—A full account of it appeared in the accounts transmitted.

517. But in the Returns transmitted to the House of Commons, should I find any reference to it?—I could not say that; you are asking me as to events that are beyond my knowledge.

518. I have looked them through, and could find no reference to it in the Returns?—It was well known to the National Debt Commissioners unquestionably.

519. But speaking of the Returns, there was nothing to your knowledge to indicate that there had been that fraud upon the bank?—Not to my knowledge, certainly.

520. You have just stated that the trustees and managers, and their friends, made a whip round, and found a certain portion of the money; how was the remainder made up?—By strict economy of management; and when (I think it was in 1880 or 1881) the rate of interest which we were then allowed was reduced from 3 *l.* 10 *s.* to 3 *l.* 5 *s.*, we were allowing 2 *l.* 18 *s.* 4 *d.* per cent. to depositors. If we had reduced it by five shillings, that would have brought it to 2 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*; but I called a meeting of the trustees, and offered boldly to compete with the Post Office savings banks upon the same terms, namely, 2 *l.* 10 *s.* They thought the whole business would depart from us; but on the contrary I not only managed to make increases every year, but I made a most substantial profit. I certainly did not lose money by reducing the rate to the same rate as the Post Office.

521. But

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Mr. BOOKER.

[Continued.]

Mr. Howell—continued.

521. But you had to reduce the rate of interest?—Yes. To 2 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* it would have been reduced in the ordinary course; but by reducing it to 2 *l.* 10 *s.*, that gave us an immense advantage, by which we were able to make up the difference in course of time.

Chairman.

522. How long did it take you to do that?—Twenty-five years; but eventually the bank was wound up, paying everybody in full, and very proud I am of it too.

Mr. Howell.

523. A portion of the interest due to depositors, that is to say, comparing what had been previously paid with what was subsequently paid, was used to make up this deficiency; that is to say, you reduced the interest of the depositors in order to help you to make up the deficiency?—Yes; and I reduced my salary too, and the expenses.

524. But that was the fact, was it not?—No, we did not alter it from 2 *l.* 18 *s.* 4 *d.* in the earlier years; the only alteration I made was in 1880, and then I thought the time had come to do it.

525. You reduced the rate of interest by how much?—Eight shillings and fourpence.

526. That was an amount larger than that by which it had been reduced by the National Debt Office?—Yes.

527. So that after all the interest to depositors was reduced to enable you to make up the deficiency?—Yes, with the knowledge of the depositors.

Mr. Bartley.

528. But I suppose if it had not been for the deficiency, your salaries would all have been larger?—Precisely.

529. Therefore you have practically helped to make up the deficiency?—I have always regarded that I have done so.

Mr. Howell.

530. You also appropriated the unclaimed deposits, did you not, for a number of years to make up the deficiency?—The word “appropriated” hardly describes the operation. We found ourselves with a deficiency. Now savings banks like other banks exist entirely upon credit. We could not go to the public with the word “deficit” writ large upon our balance sheet, and we thought it was politic, inasmuch as we decided to carry on the bank, to eliminate the word “deficit” entirely from our balance sheet. So we made an application to the National Debt Commissioners to enable us to hold all the accounts which had remained unclaimed for 10 years, in abeyance; to write them off to profit and loss temporarily; but we did not infringe upon that fund; we have paid everybody in full. We never used it for salaries, or for the purpose of carrying on the bank; we used it, in point of fact, to cover the ugly word “deficit.”

531. It was used, at all events, for a given time?—Yes, but it was not applied for the purpose of management.

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Mr. Bartley.

532. But you have not paid these unclaimed deposits now, have you?—I have indeed, with interest in full, some of them not having been touched for the last 30 years; I have transferred them to the Post Office.

533. You have not paid the individuals?—No, I have transferred them; satisfied them.

Mr. Howell.

534. This fact also did not appear in any way in the Returns furnished to Parliament, did it?—It appeared very plainly set out in the Return we made to the National Debt Commissioners. There was no secret dealing with those dormant accounts, because, year after year, claims were made upon them. I had those set out, and I showed in my annual account both the amounts that were reclaimed, and also the amounts that were written off. I think what would have removed the difficulty would have been a foot-note in the Return. We showed the transactions in ours, but the National Debt Commissioners appear to have made no comment or foot-note in their Blue Book.

535. So that nothing appeared to show that you had been struggling with this difficulty for years?—Certainly not.

Mr. Whitley.

536. I understand you to say that the fault lay with the National Debt Commissioners, and not with the managers of the bank?—Certainly, if it were a fault.

Mr. Mowbray.

537. Do you make the Return to Parliament, or does the National Debt Office make the return?—I make the returns to the National Debt Commissioners, and they make them and submit them to Parliament.

Sir John Dorington.

538. You made your return with the foot-note, and they made their return without the foot-note?—Yes.

Mr. Bartley.

539. They connived at your offence?—If it were an offence, undoubtedly.

Mr. Howell.

540. I wish to ask you with regard to the limit fixed by law, did you find many depositors anxious to deposit beyond the annual limit of 30 *l.*?—A good many.

541. What did you do in those cases; did you turn them all away, or did you take the deposits in those cases?—We were compelled to refuse them, but in some cases the cashier did exceed the limit. I called his attention to it, and told him that it should not have been done. But I admit that it was, perhaps, in rather a half-hearted way, because we were in difficulties, and we were anxious to make as much profit as we could for the bank. I admit there may have been some such cases, but not habitually; not as a rule.

542. Were there not many such cases at the time you closed?—Not during the last two years; I had been more strict about it during the latter portion of the time.

543. Did not your auditor call attention to the fact that these cases did exist?—He did.

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544. And

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Mr. BOOKER.

[Continued.]

Mr. Howell—continued.

544. And did you also exceed the 150 l. maximum limit in any case?—Never to my knowledge.

545. Now let me ask you with regard to the Government Stock; what was the total amount of Government Stock standing to the credit of your depositors at the time of the closing?—I think it was about 800 l., if my memory serves me.

546. Do not you regard that as being a comparatively small amount for a pretty good sized bank like yours?—It is small.

547. Do you think that the system takes well with the depositors; is it a system which seems to answer their desire to save beyond the limit of 200 l.; does it act as an outlet for that desire?—I fear not, they are not educated up to it yet; it requires a good deal of explanation; and although we were always willing to give every explanation, they did not seem to take it in.

548. Upon the supposition that the trustee savings banks were well conducted, and were kept within the law, and carried out the Act of 1863, do you think there would be any danger in extending this limit of 30 l. a year?—I should think it was very desirable.

549. Do not you think it would strengthen the trustee savings banks themselves, especially the small banks which are struggling with small profits?—I do, it would give them a larger capital upon which to work their business and make a profit.

550. Having a large knowledge of the working of those banks in other respects, and also a knowledge of the circumstances of the investigation at Cardiff, do not you think it possible, if the limit were increased, and a wider margin given, that it would prevent the breaking of the law with regard to the limit in a greater number of cases?—I think it might have that effect.

551. You are aware that in the case of Cardiff the number of cases of depositing beyond the limit was very large?—Yes; but I regard that case as an entire monstrosity, an abnormal growth.

552. Still you know that the number of cases was abnormally large?—It was. I should certainly advocate an increase in the limit to somewhere about 50 l., making the total maximum 300 l. I should not advise too large an increase for other reasons.

553. Are you aware that a Bill passed this House once to increase the annual limit to 100 l. and the maximum to 400 l., though it did not pass through all its stages?—I was not aware of that.

554. You were also an auditor of a number of banks, were you not?—Yes, I have a list of those with which we have been associated.

555. Would you mind putting in a list showing the number of banks, the total deposits, the yearly transactions, and also the fees?—I will read the names in the first instance: Banbury, Bedford, Brentford and Ealing (which is closed); I assisted at the closing three weeks or a month ago; Bridport, Buckingham, Dunmow, Ely, Faversham (closed very many years ago), Farnham, Hinckford (it is really Castle-Hedingham,

Mr. Howell—continued.

that is the name of the place), Hinckford is the name of the Hundred; Kettering, Kidderminster (closed some years ago), Malmesbury (closed), Peterborough, Portsmouth (closed many years ago), Sevenoake (closed), Southampton, and Terbury in Gloucestershire (which I have just recently attended the closing of); so that makes 18 of them to which we have acted as auditors, eight of which have been closed.

556. In looking over what is paid you for these banks, I find there is a very great amount of difference as to the amount paid, and I presume there is also a difference in the amount of work done; but the two do not seem to go together. For instance, at Buckingham you had 944 depositors, with 767 transactions, and were paid 20 l. a year; is that so?—It is only 10 guineas.

557. I had drawn it from the returns. And then at Southampton you had the same amount; in that case there were three times the number of depositors, and four times the number of transactions at the same fee?—You are quite right in your original conclusion, the work does vary. In some cases banks balance twice a year instead of yearly, which is the usual thing; in other cases we call the cash by the special desire of the trustees; there is extra work in some of them which would account for the inequality.

558. But does not the law provide that those audits shall practically take place twice a year?—Yes; but it only provides that the balances shall be extracted once a year. We audit the accounts twice, but extract the balance only once.

559. So that although there is no regularity in the mode of remuneration, it has some relation to the amount of work?—No doubt; we considered the subject 30 years ago when we were appointed; it was not done haphazard.

560. At Dunmow you received 15 l. for auditing 627 accounts with 465 transactions; whereas at Peterborough you received 15 l. for 1,687 accounts, involving 2,030 transactions?—Dunmow is a case where they balanced twice a year.

561. Then let me ask you this with regard to the system of audit; was it a uniform audit in all banks with the exception you have mentioned?—Unquestionably.

562. The variation being that in some cases you audit twice a year; in other cases, once?—And, in two cases, a little additional work, which I could explain to the Committee if it were thought desirable.

563. Those banks were situated long distances apart, were they not?—Yes.

564. How often did you visit the banks during the year; once only?—Once in the summer and once in the winter.

565. All the banks?—All the banks as provided by the Act of Parliament.

566. Were you there more than twice in the case of those banks which balanced twice a year?—No, only twice; that is the number provided by the Act.

567. Did the bank officials know when you were coming to inspect the books and audit the accounts?—Yes.

568. Were

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Mr. Howell—continued:

568. Were your visits necessarily flying visits, short visits?—They would vary according to the size of the bank. I suppose at Banbury it would take us nearly a week in the winter, myself and a clerk, and Bedford, probably the same. You could hardly call it “flying” in that sense of the word; but a very small bank would only perhaps require a day’s attendance, or a day and a-half, in the winter.

569. Were you able to certify, for instance, as to those accounts from personal inspection, or had you to depend mainly upon the initialled accounts put before you?—I think, perhaps, if I were to read to you the method of audit, that would answer your question entirely. At Bedford they wrote to us in 1887, and asked if we could devise any improvement upon the system of audit, and would we explain what our method was; we did so, and we wrote:—“When at Bedford this week, on the occasion of the half-yearly audit, I had the honour of an interview with a committee selected from your trustees and managers who were anxious to know what was the method of your audit, and whether any further steps could be taken for the security of the depositors and the benefit of the bank. I explained to the gentlemen the course of our examination, which I will repeat for the information of the Committee generally. A manager is present on every occasion that the bank is open for business, and certifies the correctness of the cash book, by signing his name at the foot of the receipts and payments. This is the principal book of account, and contains entries of all moneys received from and paid to depositors. This cash book is carefully checked and cast throughout by us, and agreed with the bank book at the close of the half year, vouchers being produced for any payments passing through the bank, other than depositors’ accounts. These may be stated at once to consist only of investments with the National Debt Commissioners and of payments for the expenses of management. In the former case, the actual Government receipt is always produced to us, and in the latter, the formal receipt of the person to whom the amount is paid is examined and approved by us. Our next operation is to check in detail every transaction of the cash received and paid to its respective ledger account, calling the name, number, and amount. At the close of the year each account is extracted into a book called the ‘balance book’ to which I shall hereafter refer again. This book contains, in separate columns, the distinctive number of each account, the amount standing to the credit of the depositor at the commencement of the year, the interest added half-yearly at 20th May and the 20th November; the cash received, the cash paid, and the balance standing to the credit of each depositor at the close of the year, and is designed by us as a most conclusive check to prove the absolute correctness of the castings, postings, and balances of the year. This book is carefully examined and checked by us, item by item, the accounts initialled in the ledger as agreeing therewith, and the whole cast, summarised and agreed with the general balance of the bank. In accordance with the provision of the

0.71.

Mr. Howell—continued.

Savings Bank Act we certify that the list so extracted is ‘a correct statement of the number of open accounts and of the sums due in respect of them severally, and in the aggregate.’ This certificate you will find duly entered and signed at the end of each balance book. I may add that in your case, as in all other savings banks where we act as auditors, we insist upon an exact balance being arrived at, so as to eliminate any chance of error, and at the same time ensuring careful attention on the part of the officials. The remaining portion of the work consists in arranging and agreeing the account of the National Debt Commissioners with the trustees; tracing and examining all certificates of transfer, both from and to other savings banks and the Post Office, and dealing with all additions to and withdrawals from the fund. All transfers are effected at the National Debt Office by certificate and no money passes. With regard to investments and withdrawals, these pass direct through your treasurer and your duly accredited London agent. Both the cash account and that of the National Debt Commissioners are then incorporated in the statement prepared for transmission to the National Debt Office, and this is carefully examined and certified by us as correct. Reporting on the whole matter we consider the audit to be as complete and exhaustive as it is in any way possible for us to make it. There is, however, one other check which would, in our opinion, make the audit absolutely complete, but that hardly rests with us. We consider that a comparison should from time to time be made of the depositors’ books with the ledgers. We know, indeed, how difficult it would be during the short time allotted for business for the manager in attendance to compare each book with the ledger account; but we think that a conspicuous notice might be affixed in the waiting room of the bank, requesting the depositors to compare their pass books with the balance book (which by Act of Parliament is always open to inspection) and asking, in the event of any discrepancy being discovered, that it be at once reported to the manager of the day. Were this step taken, and could the depositors be induced to make the comparison, we are of opinion that no audit could be devised of a more effective nature.”

Chairman.

570. Did you examine the books that came in during the time you were at work at any one of those banks with the ledgers?—I frequently timed my visits to be on the spot at the time the bank was open for business, and I would take an opportunity of comparing such pass books as were produced with the ledger, but that would be a very limited opportunity.

571. I understood you that in some places you said you were a week there?—We should, but even then the bank would probably be open only twice a week notwithstanding.

Mr. Howell.

572. Do I understand that you, in every case, personally examined and compared every account in the ledger with its corresponding item in the extracted

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extracted list of balances as provided in the Act?—In every case, without exception; we never slurred the audit in any respect.

573. And this extracted list of balances has in all cases been submitted to you?—In all cases, and certified.

574. How do you account in the case of Sevenoaks, if you examined the ledger account and compared it with the extracted list of balances, that frauds were not discovered in the Sevenoaks Bank?—The cash books and ledgers agreed absolutely. The discrepancy arose from the actuary receiving the money when the managers were not present and putting it in his pocket; it went into the depositor's pass-book, but it did not find its place either in the cash book or the ledger.

Chairman.

575. That was just the case where the test you have suggested, namely, a comparison between the pass-book and ledger, would have been useful?—Yes.

576. It would have enabled you to detect the fraud at once?—The weak point in the Sevenoaks Bank was the non-attendance of the managers; they should have attended, but they did not. As regards our audit, I see that as far back as 1877 we pointed out to them that they were not attending, as provided by the Act. We say that, "Although this is not perhaps, strictly speaking, a matter of account, I am induced to refer to it, because in the case of all the other banks of which I am the auditor, I very rarely find that the bank is open for business without a manager being present; and I have the less hesitation in directing attention to the subject, as, by the second Clause of the 11th Section of the said Act a personal liability would seem to attach *inter alia* to the omission to comply with the requirement in question."

577. Was that letter addressed to the trustees and managers of the Sevenoaks Bank?—Yes, it was.

578. Was that before you had any suspicion of anything being wrong?—Long before; it was done in 1877, and again in 1880.

Mr. Howell.

579. Are you aware that at the trial it was stated that if any real attention had been paid to the accounts of the bank, the errors could have been discovered in the course of half-an-hour, or words to that effect?—I was not aware of it.

580. You have not seen or heard that it has been stated that those errors could have been easily discovered if the audit had been reasonably complete?—If the pass-books had been compared with the ledger the error would have been discovered; or if the manager had been present, as he should have been during the hours of business, it would have been utterly impossible for it to have occurred.

581. But did not these entries find a place in any of the books of the bank at all; neither in the cash book nor in the ledger, nor in the extracted list?—No, only in the man's head. I took him on one side, and went through each account with him, and he was able to tell me each account that he had tampered with before the books came in.

Mr. Howell—continued.

582. How could it have been said, as it was said, that it could have been discovered if a proper audit of the accounts had taken place; if no record existed, how could it have been discovered?—I do not know that it was said so.

583. In the case of the Sevenoaks Bank did you examine any considerable number or any number of depositors' books and compare them with the ledger, and with the extracted list?—The pass-books were not examined.

Mr. Bartley.

584. Not when you were there?—I do not think it chanced that I was there upon a banking day.

585. Not once in 25 years?—I do not think I was. You will see that I gave the trustees and managers full notice of the risks they were running. But, however, they most nobly stood by and paid up the deficiency; they expiated their fault.

Mr. Howell.

586. Had you ever occasion to call the attention of the trustees and managers to any irregularity connected with the bank at all?—If you refer to that report, you will find several occasions on which we have done so.

587. You called attention to the irregularities, and yet you certified the account yearly, did you not, as being correct?—I could do that conscientiously. The accounts were correct, but the conduct of the trustees and managers of the bank may not have been in accordance with the Act. I was not auditing the trustees, I was auditing the accounts.

588. So that you were able, as far as your examination went, to certify the accounts as being accurate during the whole of that period?—Yes.

Mr. Bartley.

589. Did you ever complain in any of your banks that there was no opportunity for your comparing the pass-books with the ledger or with other books of the bank?—I did not complain.

590. Did you ever state that you thought it was a necessary part of your work for an efficient audit?—I have stated that many banks complete the audit by this comparison; but the Act provides that it shall be done by the trustees and managers; therefore, if the Act of 1863 were carried out it would be utterly impossible for fraud of any sort to exist. As I read the Act of Parliament, the trustees and managers undertake to compare the books after the 20th November each year, and we undertake to see the accounts are correct in all other respects, and that they agree with the ledgers and National Debt Accounts.

Mr. Howell.

591. In the case of the Farringdon-street savings bank, did any independent person compare the ledgers and pass-books?—I wrote about three years ago to our own auditor to ask him to do it as a good example.

Mr. Whitley.

592. I understood the manager attended at the Sevenoaks Bank?—No, his attendance was very irregular indeed.

593. You

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Mr. Howell.

593. You think, then, that the failure to detect the frauds in the Sevenoaks Bank was due to the fact that you had not an opportunity of seeing the depositors' books, and comparing those depositors' books with the ledgers?—No, I say it was due to the non-attendance of the managers and trustees during the hours of business.

594. But as regards not finding out the fraud, you attribute that to the fact that you did not see and compare the depositors' books with the extracted list?—Had that been done, it would have undoubtedly discovered the discrepancies.

Chairman.

595. I suppose if the auditor had to include the examination of the pass-books, you could hardly have done it for the amount you received; it would have involved a very much larger amount of work?—Certainly, it would.

Mr. Howell.

596. Having in view what has taken place latterly, not only in the case of Sevenoaks and Cardiff, but also at Macclesfield, Bishop Stortford, and some other places at which we know what has taken place, do not you think that the audit in order to be a real audit, ought to include the examination of the depositors' books, that is to say, a tolerable proportion of them year by year?—No doubt that would be a very great improvement, and would make the audit, I think, absolutely complete.

597. Without that, is it within anyone's power to prevent the possibility of fraud?—No, unless it is done by somebody; I do not say necessarily by the auditor.

598. Unless it is done by somebody of recognised authority to deal with the matter?—Yes.

Chairman.

599. You could not recommend the depositor himself doing it?—I had a notice stuck up in my bank asking that the depositors should compare their books with the book lying upon the counter, and to report any difference. I asked my cashier and the clerks to watch and see how many people did it; and I think two people in the course of 18 months did it.

Mr. Howell.

600. In reality, do you not find that the depositors in those banks are, as a rule, of the uneducated class; that they are rather of a class that would not be likely to take their deposit books and examine them with the book upon the counter?—They are improving very much.

601. Would they not feel rather that by going into the bank and challenging the right to look at the ledgers, they would be expressing doubt as to the soundness of the bank?—I do not think they have that delicacy.

602. To what do you attribute the fact that that was very seldom done?—Confidence and indolence; they did not care to trouble themselves to do it.

603. Do you think it arises from carelessness?—I will not say carelessness, I would say disinclination to do it. I appreciate the virtues of depositors as much as their faults. I think it is 0.71.

Mr. Howell—continued.

very largely due to confidence. They see the same faces, and they are satisfied that their money is safe.

604. Do not you think there is absolutely a necessity for some more effective method of audit than has been hitherto carried out generally on the part of those banks, having in view, of course, the recent investigations, what has appeared before the public, and so on; with those before you, do not you think it is necessary that some more rigorous method of audit should be established?—I quite agree with you. I have sketched out some rough notes, which I will lay before the Committee for what they may be worth.

605. First, I would ask you whether you do not think there should be some general kind of uniform practice; I do not mean an inflexible practice, but some kind of general uniform practice as to auditing in all those banks?—I provide for that in my rough sketch.

606. Do not you think the visits of the auditor should be uncertain to some extent, and at intervals not absolutely fixed?—Unfortunately you cannot alter the dates; they must be fixed. The accounts have to go in before the National Debt Commissioners nine weeks after the 20th November, so they must be examined and certified within that time. The actuary knows, without your advising him, when you are coming; you must come between the 20th of November and the 20th of January.

607. Still there is a margin?—Indeed, the margin is from the 20th of December to the 20th of January, they want a month to make out the account; they know the month in which you are coming.

608. Practically, every one connected with the bank knows when the auditor is coming?—Yes.

609. I will put to you a suppositious case. Suppose you made up your mind that you would audit a certain bank on a given day, and you had also made up your mind to examine every depositor's book handed in whilst you happened to be at the bank, would it not be possible that the deposit books you had to compare with the ledger should be a number of books such as it was convenient that you should examine?—Yes, I should not consider that as a test unless they were handed to me by the depositors themselves; if they were handed me by the actuary I should regard that as a valuable check.

610. You have had experience, also, with regard to the closing of some banks, and the mode and the extent of the transfers; can you give the Committee any information with regard to those?—I have attended nearly half-a-dozen where the system that has been adopted is that the Post Office send down four or five clerks in charge of the head of the department to superintend the transfer, a notice having been sent out, perhaps a fortnight or three weeks before, saying when they will attend. They then come to the bank, and as many depositors as like to transfer to the Post Office do so. They have the option presented to them of having the money out in cash or having it transferred to another savings bank, or to the Post Office. In the cases which I have recently

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recently attended, the amount that we have had transferred to the Post Office has averaged 70 or 80 per cent. and more. I have brought great pressure to bear upon the depositors myself, as I do not like to see money going away. One cannot help thinking it is lost for ever to the cause of thrift; it may or may not be, but that is my opinion.

611. In those cases you would think that the actuaries and those connected with the bank would facilitate its transfer bodily, if it were thought desirable to close the bank, to the Post Office, so that there should be no considerable leakage of those deposits?—Yes.

612. A friendly arrangement between the bank closing and the Post Office would bring that about, would it not?—A friendly feeling would exist if the officers were properly compensated.

613. Was your attention called to the evidence given before this Committee last year, in which I placed the question before the Comptroller General of the National Debt Office as to the possibility of allowing out of a surplus fund, not of the particular bank that closed, but out of a general surplus fund, some compensation for officers who have done their duty, even though the bank in question had no surplus money of its own; do you think that would meet the case?—I think such a suggestion very feasible and very right.

614. As far as your experience goes, what do you find to be the general feeling of the depositors when the change has been made; have they been agreeable; have they understood what was being done?—A great many of them do not like it at all.

615. Upon what grounds?—They have been used to seeing the same faces, and to seeing the managers who have taken an interest in them, and they have been able to exchange the time of day with the people who have taken the money; they do not like altogether the change to officialism. In fact, some of them in our case wept in the place at having to take their money away from us. We get a very large percentage, but I am so anxious to get all the money transferred either to the Post Office or to a savings bank, that I use every means I can to induce them to transfer it, and I think I have succeeded to the extent of 90 per cent.

Chairman.

616. Would you state, as briefly as you can, what are the principal points upon which you make recommendations for an improved audit?—I would venture to suggest, in the first place, that every actuary of a savings bank should prepare his list of balances in duplicate, instead of as at present in one book. This is the West London balance-book (*producing a book*); that contains perhaps 4,000 or 5,000 accounts. We have to deal, I admit, with a million and a half; I would suggest that those books be transmitted within nine weeks from the 20th November to an office in London, and that a responsible official should take charge of them.

Mr. Bartley.

617. Are they both to be prepared by an actuary?—Yes; and certified in each case by an auditor as correct and examined.

618. The auditor to see that the two copies are the same?—Yes.

Chairman.

619. Does that imply a local audit as well as a central one?—Certainly.

620. Your recommendation is that there should be a central auditor who would be rather an inspector of the local auditors?—Yes, for the purpose of comparing the books principally; but he would be in touch with the local auditor.

621. He would be in the same relation with the savings banks as the officer of the Post Office is with their banks?—Yes. Then I would next provide that each depositor should be compelled to transmit his book.

Mr. Bartley.

622. Compelled by what law?—I will deal with that directly. To transmit his book every year to the central authority to have it stamped with an official stamp and date; and that envelopes should be supplied for that purpose. Those books would be compared with the list, and they could be ticked off and returned again to the depositor.

Sir John Dorington.

623. The book would be returned to the savings bank and not to the depositor, would it not?—No. I would provide for its being returned to the depositor.

Mr. Whitley.

624. Do you mean that each depositor should send his book up to the head office?—Yes, as he does it now, to the Post Office Savings Bank.

Chairman.

625. How would you enforce the obligations?—I have provided for that in my suggestions. I say, reading my suggestions, "That an officer be appointed, to be called the Auditor General of Savings Banks, with offices in London. That within nine weeks after the 20th November in each year the auditor of each savings bank shall transmit to the Auditor General a duplicate of the extracted list of depositors' balances made up to the 20th November last, certified by such auditor, and prepared in such shape and form as the Auditor General may prescribe. (This book is already referred to in Section 6, Clause 6, of the Act). That the Auditor General shall furnish each savings bank with a constant supply of franked envelopes addressed to himself. (The envelope might be so made as to contain the address of the sender, which would serve for the return address, and save writing). That every depositor shall once in every year transmit his book in one of these envelopes to the Auditor General for examination, and on such examination an official dated stamp be affixed in the book. That every trustee, manager, or officer of any savings bank, into whose hands

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hands a book may come not bearing an official stamp of a date within 18 months, shall forthwith detain and transmit such book direct to the Auditor General. That in the event of loss arising from defalcation or other cause, the depositors whose books shall bear the official stamp of a date within two years from the date of such loss being first discovered, shall be entitled to payment in full with interest."

626. By whom; by a preference claim upon the bank?—Yes; "Shall be entitled to payment in full with interest; whilst after such depositors have been satisfied, the depositors whose books may not exhibit the official stamp within such two years shall be next paid; and in the event of the funds being insufficient to pay those of the first-class in full, they shall be entitled rateably to the entire funds, after payment of expenses of closing, to the exclusion of those of the second-class, whilst in the event of the funds being sufficient to pay those of the first-class, but insufficient to pay those of the second-class, the latter shall divide the remaining funds rateably amongst them. (It seems to me that if this system of examining pass-books were adopted, the Government might fairly guarantee all deposits. It must be recollected that the Government hold 340,000 *l.* separate surplus fund, upon which no interest is payable, and this interest might be taken as a fair guarantee premium against loss.) That the Auditor General shall be entitled to access to all returns at the National Debt Office he may require to see, and shall be authorised to require any information from any auditor of any savings bank; and, in the event of any auditor refusing to give such information, that the trustees and managers shall be compelled to dismiss such auditor upon the receipt of a certificate from the Auditor General. That the Auditor General may call upon any actuary, secretary, or other officer of any savings bank for information, and may also require him or them to keep the accounts in such a shape as will insure uniformity; and, in the event of refusal, the same consequences to ensue as in last clause. That the Auditor General shall have power to personally inspect, visit, or audit the accounts of any savings banks he may think fit, at the expense of such savings bank (to see that the rules and the Act are complied with), and with power to appoint a deputy. That the Auditor General shall report to the National Debt Commissioners, whenever he shall think fit, that in his opinion any savings bank should be closed; and that, upon receipt of such report, the National Debt Commissioners should issue a certificate calling upon the trustees to forthwith close such savings bank, and they shall be compelled to do so within six months under penalty. This course of examination of pass-books would detect cases of receipt of sums beyond the prescribed limit. If offices were provided and free postage were given, I estimate the cost at 3,000 *l.* per annum. Female clerks might be largely employed for this purpose."

627. That would be the cost of the Central Department?—Yes; I do not think it a very heavy per-centage to pay.

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Mr. Mowbray.

628. Is that to come out of the taxes?—We have a Separate Surplus Fund, upon which no interest is paid, amounting to 340,000 *l.*

Mr. Whitley.

629. That would be in addition to the ordinary cost of audit?—Yes: but the question is whether it would not be worth it.

Mr. Howell.

630. I would ask you whether the interest paid by the National Debt Commissioners now, on accounts in excess of the amounts prescribed by law, would not more than cover that and a great many other things?—If the limit were increased, do you mean?

631. In the case of Cardiff it is proved that a very large amount had been drawn as interest above and beyond the amount which ought to have been drawn under the Act; would not the adoption of this principle tend to prevent any fraud of that kind upon the National Debt Commissioners?—Yes, it would.

632. Therefore it would not be a loss to the nation; it would be a saving?—Certainly. It would, no doubt, be heavy work, but it would only require organisation.

Chairman.

633. Would you apply it to a large town like Liverpool where they have a continuous audit?—I would not make fish of one and flesh of the other. I think it should apply all round.

Mr. Bartley.

634. Would there not be a million and-a-half books to look through?—Yes.

635. That would be 5,000 a-day to look through?—But that is upon the supposition that they would all come in.

636. If they all came in, you would require a staff that was big enough to look through 10 books per second all the year round?—Perhaps you have worked it out; I have not; but I shall be prepared to controvert that calculation, I think.

Chairman.

637. Have you any recommendation to make to the Committee with regard to a better audit short of this suggestion of a central audit department?—If it is carried out by a properly qualified person, a chartered accountant, I think the audit, as it stands at present, is very satisfactory if the managers and trustees will only attend and check the books.

638. But you have already told the Committee that the audit is defective, inasmuch as it does not provide adequately for any comparison between the pass-books and the ledgers?—I do not think you can throw that upon the auditor without going to a very great expense for travelling inspectors, and it would involve all kinds of trouble.

639. Would it not be better that the audit should be more local than it apparently is in your case, so that the auditors should come in from time to time and compare the pass books which came in at that moment with the ledgers?—Yes; in large towns it might be better; in small

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Chairman—continued.

small places probably not, because they are a little jealous of the introduction of strangers.

640. In banks which have been wound up, have the officers been compensated?—Yes, but very meagrely; they are not compensated upon what I call a liberal scale.

641. Did you receive any compensation?—I did not; my partner, Mr. Prideaux, did, as they go upon the scale of years' service.

642. What scale of compensation do you go upon?—We never put in our claim in antagonism to the actuary or any other officer of the bank; we always put them first, and if it absorbs the whole we are only too pleased; if there is anything left we endeavour to get it.

643. Is there any place where you have got anything?—Yes; I think we got 30% at Malmesbury, and 30% also at Castle Hedingham; it is done upon the Civil Service scale. But if it were decided to close all those banks, I think a liberal allowance ought to be made to compensate the officers.

Mr. Bartley.

644. Where is the money to come from?—At Bristol, for instance, there is a very large surplus that would be available for the compensation of the officers.

645. I would like to ask why those banks you have been concerned with have been closed; who took the initiative of closing them?—The trustees had heard of the cases, the Cardiff case more especially, where it was ruled that possibly they may be liable; some of the leading trustees took alarm and spread it throughout the body.

646. You think that has been the cause of the closing of these banks?—Yes.

647. Do you think that many more will close for the same reason?—Yes; I think that there are many more closings in the air.

648. Do you think that will be a misfortune?—I do to the cause of thrift.

649. I gather from your evidence that many people will not go to the Post Office who now go to the trustee savings banks?—If the transfer were managed with deference to the feeling of the officers, I think that a very large percentage could be induced to go to the Post Office. As I say, I have seldom failed to get 90 per cent. to go.

650. Do not you think the system with savings banks of paying small sums at call has a great deal to do with it?—Yes.

651. Do you think any arrangement that may be made with the officers can never get over that difficulty with the depositors?—Certainly not.

652. Did you not, as a matter of fact, in your own bank, of which you were actuary, continually pay small sums to depositors over the counter?—We used to pay up to 10 £, and I would pay up to 100 £ if I had it in the till in cases of necessity.

653. Would that be a great advantage to the poor man?—It would be an enormous advantage.

654. Would it be of more importance than any other rule in the bank?—Yes, there is no doubt about it.

655. Does not it encourage men to put in their

Mr. Bartley—continued.

money, knowing that they may have to draw it out very shortly, because they can get it so easily?—Yes, they can do just as they please with it.

656. Does not that tend more than anything else to promote thrift?—I think so.

657. Can that facility be met in any possible way by the Post Office?—That is a subject beyond my knowledge.

658. But as you understand the Post Office now?—I am afraid not.

Mr. Howell.

659. The bank with which you were connected was only open two nights a week, was it?—Three nights; Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, and on Monday morning.

660. But the depositors could only draw their money on those three nights?—Yes, at all times.

Mr. Bartley.

661. But is it not very often the case amongst people that they find out in the morning that they want some money immediately?—Yes, that is so.

662. And if they have to write for it, they cannot get it?—Yes. Then, again, here are many things I used to do as actuary which, as an official, I could not do. They used to bring their family troubles to me, and ask about their wills, and family squabbles, and things of that kind; you cannot expect the Post Office officials to do that.

663. You advocate an increased limit?—Yes.

664. Are you aware of the new rule that persons can increase their maximum by buying Consols?—Yes, but that power has not been taken advantage of to the extent that was anticipated.

664*. You think it is a matter of education?—Yes; but many of these people are very helpless. In the Sevenoaks Bank a woman came in; she had invested up to her limit, and we urged her to buy stock. She appeared to consider it for a moment, and after a short time she turned round and said she had no place to keep it in; she thought we meant bullocks, or something of that kind.

665. Do not you think it is reasonable that people who can save 200 £. should run the risks of the ups and downs in the state of the country?—I do not think the limit is sufficient now; that is to say, things have altered so much. A person who formerly had 200 £. would be only equivalent to a person now having 300 £., because the interest has altered so materially; they only get 2½ per cent. now, whereas formerly they got 3 or 4 per cent.

666. As regards the auditing, do not you think that the only way of having an audit is to have a continuous audit; that the auditor should be visiting not only in the nine weeks, but all the year round?—That would be very expensive.

667. Is it not really the only efficient way of auditing?—It would be a very great advantage; but that which I suggested would, I think,
answer

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Mr. BOOKER.

[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

answer the same purpose, and be less expensive.

668. Then, with your practical knowledge, you think that the great bulk of those books would not come up?—Sufficient to form a very substantial test would come up.

669. Do not you think that it would be possible for fraud to be induced by the actuary and other officers telling a depositor he need not send up his book, and that it would be all right?—No; in one case it might be, but fraud cannot be confined to one case; fraud in one case must lead to fraud in 20 or 30; he could not carry it out in that way.

670. Do not you think that if you could arrange that in each district or place there should be a travelling auditor continually going round, that would be much more efficient than sending the books up?—I have thought it over, and have come to the conclusion that the other plan would be more efficient.

671. Would it be possible to make arrangements for the cashier in a local bank to act as a travelling auditor, and make the audit in the half-year?—I would not suggest a bank clerk as the most careful auditor.

672. Not strictly to audit, but to compare the pass-books with the ledger?—Certainly, he could do that.

673. That is really the missing point according to your evidence?—Yes, that is the missing point.

674. Do not you think that would be a more simple arrangement than sending the books to London from all parts of the United Kingdom?—You would require to have a great number of men constantly upon the move.

675. You recognise that no audit is complete unless the pass-books are brought in some way or other to the ledger by an independent authority?—Yes.

Sir John Dorington.

676. You have seen the working of a good many banks; is it usual to keep a manager's cash-book as well as an actuary's cash-book?—Yes.

677. If those two books agree, you cannot possibly get wrong with your audit?—No; that is so.

678. That is nearly as good as the examination of the pass-books with the ledger, is it not?—But money may be received out of hours; that is an irregularity on the part of depositors, and how far the trustees may be responsible in such a case as that I cannot say.

Mr. Howell.

679. When you say it is an irregularity on the part of the depositor, let me ask you this: is it not a breach of the law to pay money out of hours?—Yes.

680. Not only on the part of the depositor, but the trustee or manager, or actuary, who takes it or pays it, is violating the law?—
0.71.

Mr. Howell—continued.

Yes; the actuary would be violating the law; it would not be the trustee if he were not present.

Sir John Dorington.

681. At Sevenoaks, the manager's cash-book was not kept, was it?—It was kept by the actuary, and written up afterwards.

Mr. Whitley.

682. I think I understood you to say that the manager ought to be there on all occasions?—Where the bank is open for less than six hours a week.

683. Therefore, your remark did not apply to the larger banks which are open all the year round?—No.

684. You are aware of the two paid officers being there?—In exactly the same as in our own bank.

685. The protection there is that the depositors' books must be compared with the ledger upon every occasion of repayment, and before the month of November in each year?—Yes.

686. Are you aware of the total loss to depositors in those Trustee Savings Banks for the last 20 years?—I should say it was infinitesimal.

687. Do you know any class of banks where the loss has been so little as in the savings banks?—I know of no financial institutions which have stood the test of time so well during the last 25 years.

Mr. Mowbray.

688. There is no means whatever, is there, of enforcing the rule under the present Act, of every depositor sending in his deposit book to the bank once a year?—No; it says he shall, but there is no penalty.

689. There is no power in the auditor at present of investigating whether that is done?—No; the auditor is not the executive in the legal sense of the word; he simply checks the account; he does not take any part in the management of the bank; if he did, he would be taking upon himself duties that he is not called upon to take.

690. You would call that part of the management, and not part of the accounts?—I should not be surprised if I were told, they would attend to the management of the business, if I would attend to my part.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.

691. I understand you are of opinion that if the Act of Parliament were carried out in its entirety, the banks are quite safe?—Yes.

692. Your suggestion of a central auditor is tantamount to the suggestion of a Government audit?—Yes.

693. The banks will not be likely to amalgamate, even if they have the power, for the purpose of establishing a central audit of their own; it must be a Government audit?—Yes.

694. It necessarily follows, I think you said, that you would give a Government guarantee with a Government audit?—I think you would necessarily do so. The depositors have only lost a very trifling amount in the last 25 years, and
under

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Mr. BOOKER.

[Continued.]

Mr. *Brodie Hoare*—continued. .

under this system they would not lose anything at all.

695. The Act of Parliament has provided a practically safe system; is there any reason for establishing a still further Government audit, and, in consequence, a Government guarantee?—It has provided a check, but unfortunately it is not carried out; by the other method it would be.

696. But I understand from you that the practical result is an absolutely minimum loss?—It is very little indeed.

Mr. *Brodie Hoare*—continued.

697. Therefore, your suggestion, though no doubt a very useful suggestion, involves a very great change and a direct Government responsibility which is hardly called for by the facts; is not that so?—That was perhaps suggested to the Committee for the purpose of protecting the savings banks from what I considered rather an unjust attack which has been made upon them.

Monday, 6th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Barbour.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Sir John Dorington.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Hayden.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.

Mr. Howell.
Sir John Kennaway.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Shaw Lefevre.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. David Thomas.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Stuart Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN GEORGE SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. WILLIAM MEIKLE, called in ; sworn, and Examined.

Chairman.

698. You are the actuary of the Glasgow Savings Bank?—Yes, I have been so for 40 years.

699. I think that is one of the largest, if not the largest savings bank in the United Kingdom?—It is by much the largest.

700. How many branches has it?—We have six branches, all within the city and suburbs.

701. What is the number of depositors?—There are now 147,000 depositors.

702. And what is the amount of the funds deposited?—Nearly 5,000,000 *l.*

703. How many trustees are there?—There are 30 trustees and 70 managers, comprising many leading citizens.

704. And how is the bank managed?—The trustees and managers meet every year and appoint a committee of management consisting of 24 of their number, who attend to the superintendence of the bank; they meet every month, and appoint a sub-committee, a finance committee, and two of their number to visit as managers each month.

705. Do those two members give one day in each month?—No, they come in at their pleasure at any time.

706. Do they generally come once a day?—No, not so often.

707. Do they come once a week?—Yes.

708. How many paid officers have you?—We have altogether 37 officers, consisting of an actuary, accountant, cashier, inspector, eight tellers, and 25 clerks.

709. That number, I presume, is divided between the six branches?—Yes, it is divided between the six branches and the head office.

710. Are the branches open every day of the week?—The branches are open every day of the week the same as the head office, and at uniform hours, viz.: from 10 till 3, and on three evenings in the week from 6 till 8.

711. Have you much business in the evening?—Yes, a great business; we have nearly 3,000 *0.71.*

Chairman—continued.

people in every Saturday night, and have to pass transactions at the rate of five in a minute.

712. Does the bank take security from the officers for the performance of their duty?—Yes, they take heavy security both in the shape of bonds lodged with the Commissioners, and also by private arrangement between the bank and the officers themselves, under which the officers are encouraged to lodge their savings in the bank, and to pledge those as additional security. We have 9,800 *l.* so deposited, and 13,700 *l.* of bonds lodged with the Commissioners, making altogether 23,500 *l.*

713. What guarantee fund have you?—£. 63,000; half of that amount belongs to the national security department, and the other half belongs to the investment department.

714. What is the distinction between those two?—In the national security department the money received is lodged with the Government, and any depositor entering the bank as a matter of course lodges on that security. The other department is reserved for those who have saved up to the Government limit, and who expressly ask that a transfer be made. We allow our oldest and most exemplary depositors the privilege of transferring 100 *l.* from their original account to an investment account; that money is invested locally.

715. What is the amount in the investment department?—Half a million. We have four and a half millions with the Government.

716. Upon that half million what interest do you give?—It is 3 per cent. just now.

717. Is that a fixed rate?—Yes.

718. What do you invest in?—Chiefly with the School Board of Glasgow, and with the Glasgow Corporation and the Parochial Board.

719. What interest do you get?—The rate has varied; we have got 4 per cent. for a number of years, but latterly the rate has been reduced, and we have been getting from 3 *l.* 15 *s.* to 3 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* per cent.

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720. Do

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Mr. MEIKLE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

720. Do you charge the investment department with any portion of the expenses?—Yes, we charge it with a fair proportion of the expenses.

721. But with anything in respect of the general staff?—Yes, with its proportion.

722. And in spite of that you have made a profit, I believe of something over 30,000 £.?—Yes.

723. Lately, I gather from you, the rate of interest you have received has diminished?—Yes.

724. Have you made a proportional reduction in the rate you give?—Yes, we used to give $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to depositors when we could afford it, and then $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and latterly 3 per cent.

725. What is the amount you allow to each individual depositor?—We aim at 200 £. for each individual depositor.

726. Your number of such depositors is very large, is it not?—It is not very large, about 3,000. Our other depositors are 144,000.

727. Do you invest the money upon mortgages upon freehold property?—No.

728. You confine your investments to local securities?—Yes, to local securities having a power of assessment over the city.

729. What is the nature of the audit you have adopted?—We have a paid auditor, who is one of the public accountants of Glasgow and a chartered accountant, he usually comes in twice a week, he comes in at pleasure; he examines the cash books and the ledger, and verifies the ledger with the pass-books of the depositors as they are passing through the current of business.

730. All those that happen to come there at that time?—Yes.

731. Does he ever come in in the evening?—Yes, frequently.

732. And examines a considerable number of pass-books each time?—Yes, he examines upwards of 14,000 pass-books every year. The books are taken indiscriminately as presented by depositors. That has been going on for the last 40 years. It was first suggested to us by the National Debt Commissioners, and we have followed that practice ever since. From first to last 400,000 comparisons have been made, revealing exact agreement in every case.

733. Do you consider that any audit would be satisfactory without an examination of the pass-books?—No, and it is very easily done, because it is the universal habit of depositors to bring their pass-books to the banks every time they come, so that the auditor can at a glance see the agreement between the pass-book and the ledger.

734. What do you pay this firm for auditing your accounts?—£. 300 a year.

735. So that for that you get some member of the firm who comes twice a week to examine the pass-books?—Yes.

736. What length of time does he spend there?—From an hour and a-half to three hours, and upon a Saturday he will spend all the evening; crowds of people come then, giving an opportunity of verifying a great number of accounts.

Chairman—continued.

737. Does he come upon fixed or uncertain days?—Upon uncertain days; at his own pleasure and without previous notice.

738. Then what do you consider the superiority of the trustee savings bank consists in as compared with the Post Office savings bank?—Chiefly in the readiness with which we meet the wants of the people. The Post Office cannot pay without referring every transaction to London. The trustees of the Glasgow Savings Bank have taken a great interest in the bank from the very first; they have studied to adapt their arrangements to the wants of the people, and the success of the bank has been very great, far exceeding that of many other savings banks. I ought to say that we arrange to pay the people back their money when they want it, subject, however, to the power of taking 21 days' notice.

739. What is the specific rule of the bank in that respect?—With regard to the repayment of money Rule 16 says, "Deposits will usually be repaid on demand, but no depositor shall, as matter of right, be entitled to repayment without giving 21 days' previous notice at the office at which the payment is required to be made, the managers and officers having a discretionary power to withhold payment for that period."

740. That is the usual practice, is it not?—Yes; payment on the spot is greatly valued by depositors; the secret of our success lies in our opening daily for receipts and payments.

741. Do you allow a depositor to draw out the full amount of his deposit without notice?—Yes, practically we do where we are sure that the person applying is the depositor.

742. The remainder of the rule is to prevent a run upon the bank?—Yes.

743. To enable you to defer the payment until you have realised your securities?—Yes.

744. In the investment department what notice do you require?—All money lodged in the investment department is subject to three months' notice; we print that upon the face of the pass-book; it is a different pass-book from that which we give to the other depositors.

745. You do not assign any part of the security you take from the local authorities to individual investors, do you?—No; the monies stand in bulk in name of the bank's trustees, and our ledger shows what interest each depositor has in these monies.

746. Do you mean to say that if you took a bond for 500 £., a certain number of specific investors have a lien upon it?—No. The practice is to lodge the money of the investment department with the various trusts; the mortgages are taken to the trustees, who hold them as representing the monies due to the depositors.

747. I suppose the investor has to rely on the aggregate fund for his security, he has no lien upon the other funds of the bank?—No lien whatever; he looks to the trustees and to the large surplus held by them.

748. What recommendations have you to make for the general improvement of the law respecting trustee savings banks or the Act of Parliament?—The trustees at Glasgow have noted with much

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Mr. MEIKLE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

much regret the defalcations which have been occurring in various parts of the country, and have given thought as to how those might be prevented in the future, and they have consulted also with other savings banks. The result of that thought and that consultation is that they would respectfully submit for the consideration of this Committee a Paper of suggestions containing their views, which I beg to hand in.

[The following Paper was handed in : —]

I. INCREASED security from Officers.—Existing bonds being in many cases inadequate, Parliament might be asked to enact that the security, given shall not be less than the amount set forth in a table to be appended, the banks to have power to pay the premium. The following is suggested as a minimum scale :—

	Actuary.	Second Officer.	Clerk.
	£.	£.	£.
Funds under 50,000 £., security	500	300	200
100,000 £. "	1,000	500	200
200,000 £. "	1,500	800	300
500,000 £. "	2,000	1,000	400
1,000,000 £. "	3,000	1,500	400
All above "	4,000	2,000	500

That trustee banks shall henceforth, either jointly or severally, provide against defalcation of officers by creating a "Fidelity Guarantee Fund" similar to that in use in ordinary joint stock banks; the fund to be raised by means of contributions from the officers themselves, supplemented by a contribution, to a limited extent, from each bank's surplus. Parliament should be asked to give trustees the requisite powers of applying the surplus in this manner, or in such other manner as they from time to time may deem necessary for the benefit of their banks or of the system generally.

Experience has shown that a very small contribution will suffice to cover the risk. "The Bank of England maintain their guarantee fund by a payment of 5 £. from each member of the staff, on being confirmed in the service. The fund usually stands at 6,000 £., and the single payment is sufficient to maintain this amount. Should it, however, be necessary a *pro rata* call would be made. During two years of probation a guarantee to the extent of 1,000 £. is given, either by a guarantee society or friends of the clerks. In addition to the security for 1,000 £. under the fund, the clerks give their personal bonds on reaching their majority, so that their effects may belong to the Bank in case of fraud. An order of the Directors declaring that a default has occurred is necessary before the fund can be charged." Manager's letter, London, March 1887.

In the London and County Bank, and in several of the Scotch banks, each officer pays 2 s. 6 d. per cent. per annum on account of security required, but is liable to a *pro rata* call.

The Commissioners of Savings Banks in Australia have a Fidelity Guarantee Fund. They also appoint experienced inspectors who visit all savings banks at irregular intervals, count cash, compare pass-books, &c.

II. Efficient Audit and Inspection.—The excellent system of business and audit in use in many savings banks should be made imperative in all. The auditor appointed by the trustees should certify the weekly and other returns. Either he, or trustees, or managers should annually compare with the ledgers not less than 10 per cent. of the depositors' books extant; the result of such comparison to be certified in the annual statement of the bank.

That Parliament be asked to grant powers of inspection to a board of persons experienced in the management of savings banks, such as the chairman and actuaries of those banks which have deposits of 300,000 £. and upwards. The board to be empowered to appoint properly qualified inspectors who shall be authorised to

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Chairman—continued.

visit every savings bank at any time, examine the method of business and audit, see the checks in force, verify accounts, securities, and cash, and report to the local trustees and to the board, and, if need be, to the National Debt Commissioners,—the expense to be met out of interest which ought to be allowed on the surplus funds of the banks in the hands of the Commissioners, or, if necessary, by an assessment on the banks.

III. The limit of deposit should be increased to 50 £. a year and 300 £. in all, interest to run on. The penalties contained in the present Act (26 & 27 Vict. c. 87, s. 38, 39, and 18) forfeiting interest, forfeiting deposits, and forfeiting entire remittances, should be abolished. These limits and penalties were imposed 60 years ago, when the interest allowed was 4 £. 11 s. 3 d. per cent. They are now uncalled for seeing that the rate is only 2 £. 15 s.

IV. Investments under Section 16.—Parliament might enact that the whole of the provisions in the Act of 1863, as to "the taking of security from officers, the maintenance of checks, the audit and examination of accounts, the holding of meetings, and keeping minutes of proceedings thereat," shall apply to investment business. And, further, that the investments shall be limited to loans secured on rates or taxes, such as mortgages or stock of counties, municipal corporations, school boards, poor law boards, or other securities in which trustees may invest under Acts of Parliament. The trustees shall publish yearly accounts of that business, and of the investments held, in the same form and in as full detail as those given of the ordinary business.

Respectfully submitted by the Glasgow Savings Bank.

Glasgow, May 1889.

749. Those suggestions are made by the trustees of your bank?—Yes.

750. They make recommendations under four principal heads?—Yes.

751. The first is with regard to the security taken from officers?—Yes; we observe from Parliamentary Returns that some officers give a very small amount of security, the amount being in some cases as low as 100 £., although the funds of the bank may be 100,000 £. We would respectfully submit that it is not a local question what the security ought to be; it is a national question, and it would be a fair thing for Parliament to enact that the amount of security should be according to the size of the bank. The Glasgow trustees submit a graduated scale which they would recommend for the consideration of this Committee.

752. Do you recommend that the lowest amount of security taken from an actuary should be 500 £.?—Yes.

753. That is in respect to funds up to 50,000 £.?—Yes.

754. And that up to 100,000 £. the security from the actuary should be 1,000 £., and in proportion for the lower grade officers in charge?—Yes.

755. Would that be possible?—Yes, decidedly; guarantee societies are prepared to give a guarantee for in some cases a payment as low as 10 s., or even 5 s. per cent.; and it is no hardship for the actuary to give heavy security. The money of people in humble life ought to be guarded with more than ordinary care, and those small payments ought not to be considered at all.

756. Would the bank pay the amount that was required for the premium?—We recommend that you should allow the bank to pay the premium.

757. That is the method followed in the Bank of England, is it not?—The Bank of England

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Mr. MEIKLE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

has a specific method of its own; it has a fidelity guarantee fund, and has gone from the habit of taking security bonds; each officer now pays so much to that fidelity guarantee fund at the beginning, but is liable to a *pro ratâ* call if any defalcation arises.

758. Is that payment made by the bank itself or by the officers?—It is made by each officer.

759. Now will you proceed to the next recommendation with regard to audit and inspection?—In order to secure a thorough audit we recommend that the Act be somewhat strengthened; the auditor at present is not required to certify the weekly or the annual returns. The Glasgow and other trustees every week and every year send the Commissioners Returns certified by the auditor. All savings banks should be required to do the same. And further, we would submit that both the trustees and the auditor might be fairly enjoined to compare the pass-books. It is a check easily applied and most effective. It might be enjoined that a certain proportion, say not less than 10 per cent. of the total number of books, should be examined every year.

760. That recommendation might be easily adopted by large banks such as your own, but the question is whether it can be done with smaller banks?—We think, with deference, that it might be adopted in every bank, and that this 10 per cent. should be imperative upon every bank.

761. But a small bank might not be so easily able to get an auditor to attend weekly?—We do not propose to enjoin that this comparison should be done weekly, but that it should be done at pleasure from time to time throughout the year; and that during the year at least 10 per cent. of each bank's books should be examined.

762. Should the auditor have the power of applying directly to the depositors to send their pass-books to him, or would it be as they were passing through the bank?—It would be as they were passing through the bank.

763. If it were as they were passing through the bank it would appear to me to amount to very little, because the manager of a bank might pass on to the auditor just those books that he thought fit?—The auditor should have his eyes about him to see what was going on.

Mr. Bartley.

764. I do not understand you to suggest that the auditor should have any power of going to a depositor's house and getting his books; all you suggest is that there should be an examination during the hours of business?—Yes, during the bank hours.

Chairman.

765. But do I understand that apart from the auditor's special visits to the bank he should have the power of calling for the pass-books?—Not necessarily; it is very easy to get hold of the depositor's books; at the time when interest is being added, the books come to the bank in great numbers. At Glasgow every week produces fully 10,000 pass-books.

Chairman—continued.

766. I understand you to recommend something like a board of audit?—Yes. I would suggest that the power of the trustees should be increased in the direction of giving to a general board of trustees the power to appoint inspectors who should go from bank to bank and look over the system and see that the checks enjoined by Parliament are in operation.

767. Is it your proposal that that should be compulsory upon them?—The large banks would willingly act; they have already associated themselves. All they need from Parliament is the right to look in upon any savings bank and see that the checks enjoined by Parliament are enforced.

768. Should that be compulsory upon them, or should it be only voluntary?—Only voluntary. The large banks would willingly advise local trustees how best to improve their banks and check frauds which are scandalizing the system.

769. And how would the expense of this board and these inspectors be met?—The expense would not be much, and it would fall chiefly upon the larger banks, whose trustees would readily pay for general inspection because it would prevent the scandals that have arisen by defalcations in certain quarters where the trustees apparently had fallen asleep or were exercising a blind confidence. I think that that should be put an end to and that a body of skilled inspectors, looking in at pleasure at any time, would correct the evils which have arisen in some banks.

770. I understand you to make these recommendations only in respect to the large banks?—No, to all banks whatever, I would make no exception. All banks are inspected except savings banks.

771. Your suggestion is that the board is to be elected by the larger banks and is to have the power of inspection over all banks?—We do not propose to make any difference on account of there being large banks; the only difference is that the larger banks have shown that they understand the business, and know how to check it. Then with respect to the expense of this general board, would you allow me to say that there is with the National Debt Commissioners a fund of 340,000 *l.*; or even 400,000 *l.*, in the separate surplus account, which bears no interest; and I would submit that that is really unfair to the trustee savings banks. No such thing is done in the case of Post Office savings banks. The Commissioners have had that money for 40 years, and paid no interest upon it. They should pay interest, and that interest would go far to meet the general inspection of savings banks now recommended; but if it were not sufficient then each bank might be assessed over and above for the needful funds according to the amount in each bank.

Mr. Bartley.

772. How did they get this 340,000 *l.*?—It is the old law of the savings banks that requires the surpluses of the various banks to be written off and carried to a separate account with the National Debt Commissioners, bearing no interest;

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Mr. MEIKLE.

[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

rest; the fund consists of savings from the management fund of the savings banks for many years; it would be an act of justice to arrange that the Commissioners should pay interest upon it.

Sir John Dorington.

773. Is there no interest allowed upon the surplus fund of a savings bank?—There has been no interest allowed hitherto on this separate surplus held by the Commissioners. There will be interest allowed on future surpluses, because the law has been changed lately, but this 340,000 *l.* will bear no interest unless you so enact.

Chairman.

774. You would suggest that the expenses of the board should be met out of that fund?—Yes, out of interest on that fund.

775. Then it would very closely approach to a Government board and a Government audit, would it not?—No; the board would be appointed by trustees of savings banks, and the expense fund would be their property. I merely submit that the various banks entitled to those funds should be allowed to get interest upon their money; they would thus be put in funds by that interest for the payment of this extra cost for inspection.

776. Then what further recommendation have you to make with regard to investments under Section 16 of the Act of Parliament?—We find in Glasgow that the investments under Section 16 have been very beneficial. The present law of savings banks is very unfriendly to those who persevere in saving money. It provides that when a man has saved 150 *l.* then the doors of all the savings banks in the country are to be closed against him. Further, it provides that when a man's money reaches 200 *l.* by the addition of interest, then he is to be punished by getting no more interest upon his money. We think that those provisions are severe.

777. That is a matter under your proposal No. 3, with regard to the limits, is it not; the Committee is unable to go into that question by the terms of its reference, therefore I ask you a question with regard to proposal No. 4?—No, my answer referred to No. 4; years ago we found that our oldest and most exemplary depositors were being punished by that law. The trustees were very unwilling to close their doors against their best customers, and in 1869 they sent a deputation to the National Debt Office, to see if the Government would not grant them Government bonds, which they might hold for the people, and Sir Alexander Spearman, of the National Debt Office, answered that those bonds were all for very large amounts, and that the Government would not grant small bonds, and he recommended us rather, under the powers we possessed, to invest in safe local securities. He said, "the trustees are well able to judge, and they have the powers under the Act so to invest; all they need is the consent of the depositors." Thereupon, in 1870, the Glasgow trustees commenced their investment department, which has proved to be a great boon to depositors; the depositor transfers say, 100 *l.* to it, and resumes depositing small sums in his original account. Great care

Chairman—continued.

is taken that the securities in which the trustees invest locally are all first-class securities, having a power of rating over the entire city; this scheme has also been a great advantage to the bank, yielding a surplus of 30,000 *l.* It has further been an advantage to the local school boards, inasmuch as they get money from us at 3 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* per cent., while they had to pay 4 per cent. to the Public Works Loan Commissioners. We have taken over several bonds, which were previously held by the Public Works Loan Commissioners, at 4 per cent., and have given the School Board money at 3 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.*

778. Do you impose any limit upon the amount which may be invested by any one depositor in any one year?—The Glasgow trustees are careful not to extend this department more than is necessary, and they take into it no money from the outside; they take into it only transfers of the money already with us. We arrange that the amount of the investment fund shall not exceed the tenth part of our entire funds.

779. I understand you use this Section 16 as a means of increasing the amount allowed to be deposited?—Yes, as a means of preventing this old law from punishing people because they have saved money.

780. You think that the limit is unnecessarily restrictive and operates as a check upon thrift, and you excuse Section 16 as a means of extending it?—Yes.

781. And upon that portion of a depositor's deposit you give him a larger rate of interest than he can get from the Government?—Yes, but he parts with the right to get back the money at call. Then I should like to remark that the savings bank is dependent for its existence upon having a fair proportion of the larger balances. We have 147,000 accounts and 100,000 of those belong to poor people. The average of each of those latter accounts is under 8 *l.* An 8 *l.* account does not meet the expense of keeping it. The revenue from those 100,000 accounts is only 2,000 *l.* a year, but the cost of keeping these accounts is 7,000 *l.*, so that we incur a loss of 5,000 *l.* upon keeping those accounts, which form the very accounts which we ought to cultivate above all others.

782. You are aware, I presume, that only a very small proportion of the savings banks make any use of Section 16?—Yes.

783. Do you think it is a power which should be entrusted to the smaller banks?—In Glasgow we think that it has done good, but the principle may be carried too far, and we have studied ourselves not to allow it to be extended. The Committee will observe, we have only half a million held in this way, while we have 4½ millions with the Government.

784. So that you rather restrict the use of it otherwise?—Yes. I think it would be a good thing in the interests of the public that the field of investment should be confined to a high class of security, and we venture to suggest words which would limit it to high-class securities.

785. But, in addition to that, do you think it is wise that in the smaller banks there should be this power of investment?—I have some hesitation

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Chairman—continued.

tation upon the matter because in small country places they may not have a sufficient field of investment, but it is a great benefit in the large cities.

786. Would you draw a line, then, as regards the larger banks, and only permit the larger banks to avail themselves of that clause?—I have not thought of any such line. To restrict the class of securities would be more fair to all.

787. Then with regard to the securities in which the investments should be made, do you propose that there should be any distinct classes of investments permitted?—We advise that the investments be limited to loans secured upon the rates or taxes, such as mortgages or stock of counties, municipal corporations, school boards, Poor Law boards, or other securities in which Parliament is at present allowing trustees to invest.

788. Do you think you should be allowed to invest upon mortgage of real property?—I think not. There is so much latitude there as to the value of the property. We lend no money upon what are called real securities; we lend only upon securities guaranteed by the rates or taxes of the city.

789. Have your trustees considered the question as to the advisability of investing upon mortgage of real security?—We have often been asked, but have rejected all securities except first-class securities, having a power of rating over the city.

790. You are aware that some banks have invested on mortgage of real property?—I believe so.

791. Do you think that that should be prohibited in the future?—I think it would be a wise thing to have a limitation.

792. And that that limitation should be to loans of a public character for municipal operations, school boards, and other local authorities?—Yes.

793. And of course consols?—Yes.

794. But there is no great inducement to invest in consols, I suppose?—No, the rate of interest is so small, but we do hold some consols in order that we may have a portion of our funds readily available.

795. Would you confine your investments to loans raised upon the security of local authorities in the district, or would you allow them to range freely all over the country?—In Glasgow we confine ourselves entirely to local securities which we know about, and where we know the gentlemen who have charge of them.

796. Do you think it might be permissible to go further than that?—I think not.

Mr. Bartley.

797. You say your managers and trustees visit the bank once a week; do they make a written report of their visit?—The weekly managers examine the books every week. They see the vouchers for investments, they see the securities, they see the bankers' pass-book for the balance in hand, and they sign a weekly report.

798. Then you have a permanent record of every one of their visits?—Yes.

799. You mention the auditors' visit; you say they go twice a week to each branch; is that so?

Mr. Bartley—continued.

—Not to each branch. The auditor visits the bank, either at the head office or at the branches, as a rule twice a week.

800. Does he make a written report of his visits?—He takes a note of all the pass-books he compares and he signs the weekly statement after examining the books.

801. Is there any permanent record of the pass-books he has seen?—Yes, he keeps that.

802. Is that sent to you at the head office?—He makes a report of the number of books he has examined and he keeps a record, which is left in the bank, of the number of individual books he has examined.

803. Is that record so kept that at any subsequent period you can always find out whether he examined a certain book upon a certain day?—The ledger shows all his examinations. He has a small stamp, and when he verifies the balance in the pass-book with the balance in the ledger he stamps his initials opposite the balance examined; the ledger is dappled all over with those initial stamps.

804. Then you say you pay practically at call?—Yes.

805. Your rules require notice, do they not?—Yes.

806. Do you deduct any interest in lieu of notice, if you pay a large sum without notice?—No, we pay interest in full calculated by months.

Sir John Dorington.

807. Your interest is not up to the date of payment but up to the last month?—Yes.

Mr. Bartley.

808. Then you say that you think 10 per cent. of the books should be examined in each bank, and that the auditor should visit the branches continuously throughout the year; do I understand that?—Yes.

809. Do you think it would be sufficient if the auditor visited the bank at one particular period, say during the nine weeks allowed for making up the books?—No; he should visit it throughout the year. But those nine weeks are very valuable, inasmuch as there is a perfect shoal of books coming in then to get the interest added, giving an excellent opportunity of making a large comparison.

810. You are very strongly of opinion that the audit ought to be a continuous one?—Yes.

811. Without that you think no audit can be satisfactory?—No.

812. Then you tell the Committee that the Government has had 340,000 *l.* for nearly 40 years?—Yes.

813. I suppose that the State has been getting the benefit of that money?—Yes.

814. What would that amount to, 10,000 *l.* a year?—Yes, it must be that; it would be fully 9,000 *l.* even now at the low rate of interest.

815. So that we may take it that the State has made fully 500,000 *l.* of profit in that way?—There is no doubt that there has been an enormous profit.

816. Should not that be set off against any cost that these banks have been to the State?—Clearly; but there is another thing that ought

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[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

ought to be set off, and that is the great gain that the State has made off the savings bank money.

817. You mean as regards the sinking fund?—Yes.

818. And the terminable annuities?—Yes; and as regards the paying off of dissentients. Our money has been at the command of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a long time; he has used it for State purposes and made great gains for the State, and rather left the savings banks' account at a disadvantage. The gains to the State are represented in the words I have here of Mr. Gladstone's, "The money deposited with Government by savings banks has enabled successive Administrations to effect an economy in the management of public money transcending ten times over the charge the State has been put to." You will find that in his speech on the 8th April 1861. Then the words of Sir Stafford Northcote are somewhat similar in his speech of the 7th of June 1875. Sir Stafford, from his place in the House, said, "The Government was under a contract to allow the old savings banks 3 l. 5 s. per cent., and there was no reason whatever why they should reduce that amount, because the Government were making an interest of 3 l. 7 s., or a profit of 2 s. per cent. But it was said there was still a deficiency. No doubt there was, but it had not arisen from any conduct on the part of the old savings banks, but on account of certain mistakes which had been made by the Government in dealing with the funds in their hands." These are the words of Sir Stafford Northcote.

819. Then you think that really the indebtedness is on the other side, and that the State has not lost anything by these banks, but has really gained a large sum?—I would not quite go that length, but I think that the savings banks have suffered great injury at the hands of many people who are in the habit of representing them as institutions burdensome to the country, and that those great gains have been unduly ignored.

820. Then you said that you objected to the doors of all savings banks being closed when the 150 l. limit is reached; that is not strictly accurate, is it?—Yes.

821. Persons can invest in consols, can they not?—Yes; but there is a great drawback, especially in Scotland, to consols; the people do not understand these securities, and you cannot drive them into them. We offer facilities for investing in consols, but very few take advantage of them. It is right to explain, however, that the trustees in Glasgow opened their investment scheme 10 years before the Government allowed the people to invest in consols through savings banks, and the people in Glasgow are accustomed to, and highly pleased with, this mode of investment. It is free from expenses for buying and selling, and it fits the habits of the people much better than consols; they will get back the exact money they put in.

822. You think that a Scotchman prefers to be quite certain that his capital will not become less?—Yes, all depositors do.

823. Do you think it reasonable that the State should guarantee that?—I must give a qualified

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Mr. Bartley—continued.

answer to that question. I think the privilege of depositing which the State now offers to the savings banks is a valuable one, and that it should be continued; that the Government does not really lose, and that although the money is at call, yet the whole money is not disturbed. Take, for instance, Glasgow; for the last 20 years we have had no decrease on any year, we have always had an increase of money, so that the State is really receiving, and is little disturbed by payments.

824. But supposing there were a great European war, and consols fell sharply, is it not possible that the State might have to make up a large sum?—No doubt it might lose a little, but still, take the range of the last 50 years, we have had wars, and yet no great disturbance of the people's money in savings banks. In fact their money is the best money in the country.

825. Do you think it reasonable to exempt from the contingencies of rise and fall the funds of depositors who can save larger sums than 200 l.?—Upon that head I am not proposing that the Government should take larger sums; I am proposing that the investment scheme should take in these larger sums.

826. You do not wish the amount of ordinary charges to be increased?—I consider it would be a great benefit if it were increased a little, but I do not think it would be fair that the ordinary taxpayer should bear the burden for the depositor.

827. Does not he now bear a burden to the extent of over 100,000,000 l.?—No.

828. Are not the deposits in the Post Office savings banks and the trustee savings banks over 100,000,000 l.?—But the money is not all disturbed; it is good lying money. The people who own it know nothing about the ways of the Stock Exchange; and I think it is a great good for the country that saving habits be encouraged; and although there might be a trifle of loss occasionally, yet that that loss is repaid to the State sevenfold in increased order and industry amongst the people, and in the palpable diminution of the poor rate and other expenses connected with crime.

829. Do not you think that the present amount of 200 l. should provide for all that?—I think it a very small matter, and that it would be far better that the State should afford ample facilities for the people saving and depositing up to 200 l., or even 300 l.

830. You pay, practically, at call; do you consider that the great advantage of the savings banks as compared with the Post Office savings bank?—It is a great feature, and the people appreciate it highly.

831. Is it not the fact that the Post Office savings bank in Glasgow has not increased nearly in the same ratio as your bank?—Yes, the Post Office savings bank is not in the race at all.

832. Are there many of them there?—Yes; the Post Office savings bank has 70 branches, whereas the Glasgow savings bank has only seven; but in the 27 years that the Post Office savings bank has been in operation they have only increased 74,000 l.; and in the same 27 years the Glasgow Trustee savings bank has increased 3,887,000 l.

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833. Do

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[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

833. Do you attribute that to the fact that you suit yourselves to your customers, and that the Post Office savings banks expect their customers to suit themselves to them?—I have nothing to say against the Post Office savings banks; they do well; but it is easy to do business ten times better than the Post Office does it.

834. And you think your bank does it?—Yes, it has done it all through these 27 years. The trustee banks are a kindlier agency, and the body of gentlemen who act as trustees render important service and form a most valuable link between the upper and lower strata of society, which our country greatly needs.

Chairman.

835. How does a depositor, for instance, draw out his money at your bank?—He comes for it, or he may write for it, and we transmit it by post.

836. You give it to a depositor if he writes?—Yes, we lend it to him if he writes.

837. Do you give it him in the shape of a cheque?—We give it to him in the shape of a bank order, payable at the place where he is.

Mr. Bartley.

838. That is from the head office, I suppose, and not from the branches?—If he banks at a branch the application must go there; but we transmit, as a rule, from the head office.

Chairman.

839. Are you satisfied with the depositor's signature?—We take care that we are dealing with the right party before we pay the money. At the time a depositor lodges the money we take his signature, and when he comes to draw we compare the signatures.

840. You say, when they come to draw; do they draw by a cheque, or in the shape of a letter, asking for a remittance?—It may be either; but we always require the production of the pass-book.

Mr. Bartley.

841. Then the depositors are never allowed to withdraw without the production of the pass-book?—No.

Chairman.

842. A depositor must send his pass-book up with his letter if he writes?—Yes.

843. You would never allow the pass-book to be handed over to the endorsee of the cheque?—No, we are very careful in sending the money to hand it over to the right channel.

844. Would you pay it to his order?—Yes, we would pay it to his order provided we were certain that the signature was genuine.

845. And provided you had the depositor's pass-book?—Yes.

846. So you would send out the pass-book to the person to whom it belonged and pay the money to the person as directed?—Yes; we retain no pass-books.

Mr. Bartley.

847. Have you had any losses in your bank?—Very trifling; we have only had two cases of dispute in which we have gone before the arbitrator in 40 years.

848. Out of all your transactions?—Yes; we have no quarrels with the people. The bank is very popular.

Mr. Kenrick.

849. You say that one of the advantages of trustee savings banks is that they pay on demand?—Yes.

850. But that they have the power of demanding 21 days' notice?—Yes.

851. Is it ever necessary to exercise that power?—Yes, sometimes it is; sometimes we may stand in doubt of the genuineness of the application.

852. Has there ever been any occasion like a run upon the bank, to your knowledge, when it was necessary to delay?—At the time of the failure of the Western Bank of Scotland there was a run; at the time of the City of Glasgow Bank failure there was a run. There is nothing for it but just to stand to your work and pay the people; they usually recover their senses in a day and-a-half.

853. What were the dates of those failures?—The failure of the Western Bank was in 1857. The failure of the City Bank was in 1878.

Chairman.

854. Did you insist then upon the 21 days' notice?—No, we paid at call; but there is this good safety valve in the case of a run upon a large savings bank, that the small depositor runs as well as the large depositor, and between them they crowd the office and little money suffices.

Mr. Kenrick.

855. My question was whether you had ever had occasion to use this power in the event of a run upon the bank?—We do not think it would be a wise thing to do; it is not a remedy for that evil.

856. It is simply a remedy when you have a doubt as to the genuineness of the depositor?—Yes.

857. Then as to management, you say you have 100,000 small depositors. I understand that those accounts average only about 8 l. each and that the loss from those accounts is 5,000 l. a year; that is to say, the profit is 2,000 l. and the cost of the management of the accounts is 7,000 l.?—Yes, 8 l. is the total in these accounts.

858. Have you any knowledge whether the proportion which exists in your bank is the common proportion in other banks between the small and the large accounts?—I think, perhaps, we have a larger proportion of small accounts than many others. I have not verified that fact closely, but we have made it a rule to encourage the small depositors, and we have a vast number. And, besides that, we encourage the growth of penny savings banks; there are 200 penny savings banks in Glasgow and there are 70,000 youthful depositors in those banks, who become trained to saving habits, and ultimately become depositors in the trustee savings banks.

859. Your object has not been to make a profit principally, but to encourage thrift in the case of those small accounts?—Yes, we aim at the encouragement of thrift in every possible way. We have to face this loss of 5,000 l., but we counteract that by the larger profit we get from the larger balances. These larger balances are essential to the existence of an efficient savings bank.

860. Do

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[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley.

860. Do you pay the expenses of the penny banks?—We take a middle course; we try to encourage those who are starting penny banks to start them upon a sound basis; provided the gentlemen who start the bank will sign a constitution agreeing to be responsible to the poor people for their deposits, we, in return for that, provide them with the material they need for their own use free of charge; that is to say, ledgers, and pass-books, and cash books; that we do at a loss to ourselves, but we have our gain in the fact that we encourage thrift in the lower strata of society, and those people come to be good customers of the bank in future years.

Mr. Keirick.

861. Are any of those people interested in your bank, who are interested in the penny banks?—Yes.

862. First of all, they establish a penny bank, and then they introduce customers to your bank?—Yes; but the fact of their being interested in our bank is only an accident; the fact is that they are interested in thrift.

863. Then with regard to the suggestions for the improvement of the security in savings banks in the way of the increased security to be given by officers, I think you have no recommendation in your Paper for the prosecution of an officer, in the event of defalcation, by the guaranteeing societies?—I assume that that would be followed up as a matter of course.

864. We may take that as a necessary guarantee?—Yes.

865. An efficient audit and inspection seems very desirable, but does not it appear to reduce the duty of the trustees? Ought not the trustees to do part of this duty themselves, that is to say, the examination of the pass-books with the ledger?—Some trustees have not made it part of their duty, but I think it ought to be a part of their duty to compare the pass-books with the ledger.

866. Otherwise they are dependent upon their auditor exclusively, besides the ordinary staff?—I think it would be a wise thing to require the trustees to do that duty. They have not in many cases the means of paying an expensive audit.

867. One would have supposed, would not one, that the interest of the trustees was to discharge that duty for their own sake, for their own security?—Yes, clearly.

868. It shows that they have too much confidence in the officers of the banks where they do not discharge their duty?—Yes; I think they have too much blind confidence, and that that ought to be put down. I think it ought fairly to be made the law that a certain proportion of the depositor's pass-books should be examined by the auditor, or, failing the auditor, by the trustees themselves. It would be far better that a trustee should do that work than simply come in and receive or pay money. That is better done by a paid officer than by a trustee.

Sir John Dorington.

869. Have you any reason to believe that in the smaller banks in Scotland that rule, Sub-section 2 of Section 6, two persons being always

Sir John Dorington—continued.

present and comparing every transaction, is not carried out?—I cannot say from my own knowledge.

870. We had an auditor who inspects a good many banks, who said that he thought it was greatly observed in England, but that it was not so in the Cardiff case?—I have no general knowledge as to how that may be, but it is one of those things that general inspection would carry out; that is, if there were inspectors to look in and see that the two parties were present, as the law requires.

871. As regards the board of inspection, have your trustees expressed the opinion that they would like such a practice?—Yes, the Glasgow trustees were sorry to see that defalcations were taking place in different parts of the country, and they gave this subject very great thought; they also consulted other banks as to what would be the best method to prevent defalcations, and we sent out circulars to about 80 of the leading banks with a draft of these suggestions, and we got back answers to the number of about 50, and about 40 of those who replied approved of the suggestions. A few suggested some amendments, which the Glasgow trustees adopted, as far as they conscientiously could, and the Paper before the Committee is the result of their thought and consultation upon that subject.

872. I suppose it damages a savings bank considerably if there is a defalcation in another savings bank; it injures the credit of the bank?—It does; and that is a great reason why we are anxious that there should be a check against all these defalcations, for no savings bank can expect to live unless it does business in such a way as to command public confidence.

873. And you think that it would be worth while to incur some expense in order to see that all savings banks were going on properly?—Clearly.

874. It would in fact be a travelling inspectorship on behalf of all the savings banks?—Yes.

875. And you think that the larger savings banks would be willing to bear the expense?—Yes.

Mr. James Campbell.

876. The Right Honourable Chairman suggested that this board of inspectors would assume pretty much the appearance of a Government board; you seem to think it would not?—I would deprecate any interference by the Government. Such interference would involve Government liability; besides their officers do not understand this business. The trustees are thoroughly acquainted with it, and could superintend the skilled inspectors with the greatest ease.

877. But would the board not require to get Parliamentary power for inspection?—Yes; but I am assuming that that might be given without asking the Government to take up the work. I think that the habit of asking the Government to do everything should be avoided.

878. This would be a board with public power?—Yes.

879. There has been an objection made to the Government even to appear to take the position of guaranteeing the debts of the banks to depositors?—Yes.

880. This would have nothing of that appearance?—Nothing.

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881. The

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[Continued.]

Mr. James Campbell—continued.

881. The function of this board would not be to deal with the deposits, but simply to see that the banks were conducted according to law?—Yes, and to see that the checks enjoined by Parliament really were in operation. If checks are omitted, the inspector would report to the responsible parties, the local trustees.

882. It would be something akin to the factory inspection; the object of that is to see that the Factory Acts are carried out?—Yes.

883. You mentioned that the trustees of the Glasgow Bank hold a monthly meeting?—Yes.

884. Does that go towards securing the proper management of the bank?—No doubt it does; but we are not sure that that same method is carried out all over the country.

885. What does that monthly meeting do?—They examine the general books of the bank. They do not rely only upon the report of the auditor, they examine for themselves; five or six of them take the books and compare them one with another. We also have to present to the meeting all vouchers for investments made during the month, and in every way a thorough supervision of the whole of the work of the month is gone into.

886. This is an unprofessional audit in addition to the professional audit?—It is.

887. Penny banks have been referred to; would you explain to the Committee exactly what a penny bank is?—A penny bank is an institution to receive sums as low as a penny. In Glasgow we began to foster these banks as far back as 1850, and there are now upwards of 200 of them in full operation; they are doing a great deal of good in training the very poorest class of the people to saving habits; they receive in the year about 50,000 £. collected in small sums; they have about 70,000 depositors constantly in training.

888. In what does the process of transferring depositors' accounts from a penny bank to a trustee savings bank consist?—There is a rule by which when a depositor in a penny bank has saved as much as 1 £., that 1 £. is transferred to an account in the savings bank in the depositor's own name.

889. He gets no interest in the penny bank?—The depositor gets no interest in the penny bank, but when he comes to transfer that 1 £. to the trustee savings bank he gets interest upon that deposit.

890. In the first instance?—Yes.

891. Your evidence has gone to show that you are of opinion that the audit must be continuous and local?—Yes.

892. Would it be local audit?—Yes. Every bank would be visited and tested on the spot and at the moment.

893. The Committee have had the suggestion from another witness that there might be a general auditor for the whole country to whom the pass-books might be sent in. Do you think it would be practicable to do that?—I think it would be very elaborate and extremely troublesome to depositors, and that you might, by this inspection which we have suggested, see that things were right, and do it far more thoroughly and far more simply without troubling all the customers every year. It was

Mr. James Campbell—continued.

proposed, I understand, that a copy of the balance-sheet should be sent to some central office in London. A copy of the balance-sheet of the Glasgow Savings Bank would occupy a large book eighteen inches thick, and would involve a great amount of labour; it would be far better that an inspector having a knowledge of how a savings bank should be conducted should visit from bank to bank, and come in at any moment to see that things were right. He could offer valuable suggestions.

894. The audit that you have described at Glasgow is conducted without the depositors being made aware of it or being inconvenienced, or put to any trouble in connection with it?—That is so; the work is done silently by the auditor every week, and revised by the trustees every month.

895. And there is nothing in it which inconveniences the depositors in any way?—Not in the least.

896. That is a great advantage?—It is.

Mr. Barbour.

897. You were asked what advantages the trustee savings banks conferred in addition to those of the Post Office savings banks, and the answer you gave was, additional facilities for conducting business; is there any other that you can give besides that?—There is a kindly influence constantly going on between the bank, that is to say, the trustees and the officials, and their depositors. Poor people's affairs constantly get involved one way or another, and they come to the bank from time to time to ask advice, and it has been a great pleasure to myself and others in our bank to give that advice, and to keep them out of the hands of pettifogging lawyers who fleece them greatly.

898. You think that kindly influence and intercourse between the customers and the officials of the banks is general in Scotland?—I think it is.

899. Is not it also customary for the directors to take some special opportunities, by way of lectures or otherwise, of bringing the advantages of the banks before them?—Yes, it is. In Glasgow we hold annual meetings to which we invite depositors, and at those meetings addresses are given recommending thrift, with great advantage. At Paisley, I believe the actuary goes and addresses people in the out-lying districts, in order to give the advantages a wider publicity.

900. That has an influence in many ways in different directions?—That is so.

901. The Post Office savings banks do not take the trouble to spread the knowledge of their business in that way at all?—No, it is a colder agency, but a noble institution at the same time.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.

902. I should like to know by what precise title your bank is known?—"The National Security Savings Bank, Glasgow." That title was adopted as far back as the year 1836, when the English Savings Bank Act was extended to Scotland. Previously to that there were many savings banks in Scotland which invested in all

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Mr. MEIKLE.

[Continued.]

Mr. Brodie Hoare—continued.

sorts of securities, and many of them did not specify what their securities were. "National Security Savings Bank" is the common name in Scotland for trustee savings banks; it is sanctioned by the rules.

903. Does that convey to the public, do you think, any idea that there is Government guarantee?—I do not think it does. We take care to demonstrate every year at our annual meetings where the money is; and the receipts of the Government are, at every annual meeting, handed to the chairman of the public meeting.

904. You have a very considerable number of large accounts; is there any jealousy on the part of the great Scotch joint-stock banks against you upon such a matter as that?—I daresay there may be, but it is a very unfair jealousy, because we give off every year thousands upon thousands of trained depositors who form the best customers of the ordinary banks.

905. That is the point I was coming to; your depositors when they get beyond a certain point, do become depositors in the other banks?—They do.

906. Therefore, you hold that your bank is a training school which leads to business to the big joint-stock banks?—Yes, and it is unfair upon the part of the joint-stock banks to claim our larger deposits. We need a due proportion of large accounts to cover the expenses of the small accounts, which are carried on at a loss.

907. Do you have any check within your office over your individual officers by shifting their duty so that the same men shall not be always at the same post?—Yes; we change the branch hands at pleasure, three or four times a year. The staff that works one branch is taken off at pleasure, and another staff put in, so that there is a thorough check upon the officials.

908. For instance, at your head office will a depositor always hand his book or his money to the same cashier?—No, there are perhaps six clerks there taking in books simultaneously.

909. And they are not divided alphabetically?—No; whoever is disengaged addresses himself at once to the business of the depositor.

Mr. John Ellis.

910. Have you had any personal share in the management of any savings bank other than this Glasgow Bank?—No, the whole of my time is devoted to the Glasgow Bank.

911. May I take it that your recommendations, valuable as they are, arise from your personal experience in the Glasgow Bank?—Yes, only I have been in charge there for 40 years, and I have had much experience in correspondence with other savings banks who often appeal to us for advice in any difficulty that may arise.

912. As far as your personal experience goes, I take it that you are connected solely with the Glasgow Bank?—Yes.

Mr. Howell.

913. The general tendency of your evidence is to show that if the general law of the country were properly carried out in the savings banks of the country, there would be no defalcations 0.71.

Mr. Howell—continued.

such as we have had to deplore in recent years?—That is so. The savings banks have acted, upon the whole, with wonderful accuracy; they have turned over since the present Act was passed, 464,000,000 £., but there has been only a trifling loss out of that vast amount.

914. But my point is, if the law were carried out as it appears to be in the Glasgow Bank, there would have been no such defalcations as we have heard of at Cardiff, Sevenoaks, Dorchester, Macclesfield, and numerous other places?—That is so.

915. If the law were carried out as you do it in Glasgow, you think it would not have been possible for those defalcations to go on for a series of years?—It would have been quite impossible.

916. You suggest that at least 10 per cent. of the deposit books should be examined yearly; do not you think that 10 per cent. is a very small number of deposit books to be examined as a guarantee for security?—I think it would be quite ample for security; it is every tenth book, no fraudulent actuary would dare to intromit with any deposit book if there were a periodical examination to which every book would be liable.

917. In your own bank at Glasgow, do you estimate that you do not examine more than 10 per cent. of the entire number of deposit books?—About that; 14,000; I mentioned the total number of depositors with us as being 147,000; I do not think there is any necessity for any further examination; we have never found an error; we have balanced our books every year to a penny for the last 50 years.

918. But have you read at all the report of the inquiry that took place before the Commissioner at Cardiff?—I have.

919. You know, therefore, the way in which the actuary kept back the books, and kept a double set of books?—Yes.

920. Do not you think in a case of that kind it would have been possible by manipulating 10 per cent. of the pass-books still to have hoodwinked these blind managers and trustees?—There is a distinction to be made; I think the trustees and the auditors in that case may well be described as blind, they were most inefficient, and did not apply the ordinary checks at all; it was no audit; the whole thing has been a farce.

921. That is the purport of my question; if the general management of a bank is not strictly in accordance with the law, the examination of 10 per cent. of the depositors' books by being placed before the auditor by the actuary might not insure a perfect audit of the accounts?—The actuary has no choice in selecting the books with us at all; we do not know what books are coming in, nor when the auditor is coming; it is a visit without notice and without appointment, and no actuary in his senses would dare touch any deposit with this style of audit going on to the extent of 10 per cent.; further, we must study that the business shall not be unduly hindered. At Glasgow we have crowds of people, and we have to take care that we send out the people as fast as they come in, otherwise the office gets blocked; we have an

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Mr. MEIKLE.

[Continued]

Mr. Howell—continued.

office six times the size of this room; the counter is crowded with people standing three deep on Saturday night, and it would not do for the auditor to impede the work.

922. That scarcely answers my question; your view is that where a bank is well conducted, where the trustees and auditors look after the accounts, an examination of 10 per cent. of the books is enough; my question is, supposing the trustees and managers do not do their duty according to law, and that it were left to the actuary very much to place before the auditor every tenth book, he might not manipulate those books in such a way that it would not be a perfect audit?—My whole evidence is given upon the basis that the trustees would do their duty, and that neither they nor the auditor would allow manipulation or selection of books. Every book goes to the auditor.

Mr. Bartley.

923. I did not understand you to suggest that the pass-books are handed to the auditor by the actuary, but that they go directly from the depositor to the auditor?—Yes; there is no selection.

924. If there were any selection your scheme would break down?—It would.

Mr. Kenrick.

925. Your auditor would select the books himself, would he not?—Yes.

Mr. Howell.

926. My point was that in the cases mentioned in each one of those banks, the actuary not conducting the affairs of the bank under the supervision and actual management of the trustees and managers, the tenth book might be so manipulated that it would not give a fair audit of the accounts; would not that be the case?—I do think, with all deference, that a comparison to so great an extent taken promiscuously of the books as brought in by the people (that is the essential part of the whole thing) would be an effective check.

927. It is in all cases essential that the books shall be brought in promiscuously, and examined as they come in?—Yes.

928. You have stated that out of the total number of your depositors, namely, 147,000 in round numbers, something like 100,000 of them are deposits amounting upon the average to 8*l.*?—Yes.

929. Would the extension of the system of buying Consols at all operate to the advantage of those small depositors?—No, it would be of no use in the world to them.

930. They would not understand it?—No, they would not understand it at all.

931. They would not have confidence in it?—No.

932. Then you do not find that these small depositors are at all attracted to this method of investment?—No; we might as well speak in Greek or Hebrew to them as tell them the market price of the day, or talk about buying and selling or fluctuations; they would make nothing of it.

Mr. Howell—continued.

933. Therefore, if any channel were provided for the greater encouragement of thrift in connection with these banks, you would rather suggest the extension of the limit than any attempt to force upon the depositors the purchasing of Consols?—Decidedly; we have given the people the option of buying Consols ever since the law permitted it, eight years ago; but very few have been induced to buy them, and some who have taken them and have lost by a fall in the price, feel astonished at the bank giving them back less money than they paid into the bank.

934. Do you think it would be fair, taking into consideration (I am now speaking more particularly of the 100,000 depositors) the class of depositors you have, to induce them to take Consols in lieu of the ordinary investments of the bank?—I do not think that the Consols investment fits the ordinary mind, especially in Scotland. It would be better to allow those people to lodge on deposit, and to get back the very money they gave in with a little interest.

935. That is the reason why you advocate the extension both of the annual amount and of the maximum amount?—Yes, it is.

936. I now come to the other class; you made a distinction between the two departments of the bank, one the "National Security," that was the term you used with regard to one department, and the other the investment department?—That was so.

937. Out of the 47,000 depositors who go beyond the amount limit of the 8*l.*, how many would be investors in the investment department?—About 3,000.

938. And those invest above and beyond the limit of 200*l.*?—Yes.

939. That is really a channel in which they may increase their deposits?—It is.

940. You regard that as quite within the scope of the law under Clause 16?—Yes, we were so advised by the National Debt Office itself when we found that we were obliged to punish the depositors either by turning them away from the bank or by forfeiting their interest beyond the 200*l.*

941. How many individual depositors have you in that department whose excess over the 200*l.* maximum would amount to 150*l.*, or, say 200*l.* more?—The total number of our investors is somewhere about 3,000. Some of those, however, have only 100*l.*, some 150*l.*, some of them perhaps 200*l.*

942. Have you any remarks to make as to the number that would be under 200*l.*?—I could not say without classifying.

943. But it is not a large proportion?—It is not.

944. There is no limit other than that with regard to the amount that you invest in this department?—No, there is not. We aim that they should not exceed 200*l.*

945. You practically limit them to 200*l.*?—Yes.

Mr. James Campbell.

946. It is not a statutory limit?—No, a practical limit.

947. You

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[Continued.]

Mr. Howell.

947. You spoke of an amount of 340,000*l.* in the National Debt Office as bearing no interest, and you think that this ought to be credited to the banks; and then in answer to a question by an honourable Member on the other side you thought that should be set-off to the amount lost to the State by the savings bank institution; have you any remarks to make as to the amount that had to be written-off in 1881 as the losses by these institutions?—That raises a difficult question which it is impossible for us to go into now, because the State often uses our money for State purposes, irrespective of the requirements of the savings banks altogether, and one cannot account strictly between us and the State as to who has caused loss or otherwise.

948. Still there was an amount of three and a-half millions, was there not, that was written off in 1881?—Yes, but there is a good deal to be said under that head too.

949. You are aware that last year there was a loss on the year alone of 25,000*l.*?—Yes, but I think our account is very unjustly stated.

Chairman.

950. You think the State manipulates the money?—I would not suggest anything of the kind; I am sure that we are honourably dealt with, and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer acts with great ability and skill; at the same time he is both buyer and seller of our funds, which is scarcely fair; for he is subject to straits and necessities the same as ordinary mortals, and it is a convenient thing for him to have the savings banks money at his command to deal with as he likes.

951. Do you allow depositors to send money to you from a distance?—Yes.

952. I suppose they send it in the form of a Post Office order or postal notes or cheques?—Yes, or Scotch *l.* notes.

953. And they send their pass-books at the same time, do they not?—Yes, we have a great many depositors in the small islands to the west.

954. Does the auditor see those pass-books?—Yes, if he is in at the time.

955. Is he often there at the commencement of the business, when the letters are received?—Yes, he is often there; every week.

956. When the parcels come by post?—Yes.

Mr. Bartley.

957. You say that a number of your depositors, about 100,000 of them, have an average of 8*l.* a-year deposited?—Yes.

958. And you say that the maximum should be increased in order that they might have greater advantages?—Yes.

959. Is it not the fact that they might have 150*l.* under the present rules?—Yes.

960. Therefore, without any limit those poor depositors might be 20 times as thrifty as they are?—Yes, decidedly; but you are only taking the bottom of the scale. Taking the top of the scale, we have a great many depositors who have reached the total limit, and every day we are punishing those depositors by forfeiting their interest.

961. You are not punishing the 100,000 people who have only 8*l.*?—No, not at all.

962. But only the rich ones?—That is so.

0.71.

Chairman.

963. Are you aware that a certain number of small savings banks have been closed in the last few years?—Yes.

964. And that is a movement which appears to be going on?—Yes.

965. How do you account for that?—They give very limited facilities. There are upwards of 100 banks which are closed all the week except one hour; and that closing is largely brought about by the idea that a trustee or manager must be present during the time the bank is open. In Scotland it is otherwise. The trustees appoint experienced officers to do the work, and keep the banks open longer.

966. Does not that tend rather to show that in rural districts and poor districts the Post Office savings banks are more convenient to the public than trustee savings banks?—Yes, but if the trustees can arrange to obey the law by having two parties present, and give facilities, I think the trustee bank also should be allowed to live.

967. But if they do not do it themselves, they must pay for it, which would be an additional burden upon the resources of the bank?—Yes.

968. In small districts they have not funds to do that?—No.

969. Then you have to fall back upon the additional labour of the trustees?—Yes, no doubt.

970. Do you think, looking at the additional liabilities which have been cast upon trustees, that they have in some cases become frightened, and are backing out on that account?—Yes, no doubt. I think it should be an absolute rule that they should provide a thorough audit and a double check, and if they cannot provide that they should close.

971. In Scotland you think they have provided the double check, and carried out the Act safely; but in a small district where the bank was a small one that could hardly be carried out in the same way?—Small banks have always a difficulty, but in Scotland the system of working by experienced officers and opening frequently has resulted in an increase since 1861 of six millions while England and Ireland under a less accomodating system show a decrease.

972. Do not you think that it arises upon the ground that the trustees find themselves unable to spare the time to give this double check?—I am sure they cannot.

973. And upon that account there has been a tendency to close the small banks?—No doubt.

974. Do you think there is any way of checking that, or that it is desirable that it should be checked?—The law permits two officers to do the work where the number of hours that the bank is open exceeds six; and if the bank provides the two officers, and they are willing to take such pay as the bank can give, I think the bank should be allowed to live.

975. Do you think that the small banks should have the continuous audit you speak of?—I think they should have that in all cases.

976. But that is not so in small banks now, is it; there is nothing like a continuous audit?—I am not aware of any cases where it is wanting.

977. Is it not the case that in some small banks the real check is the comparison of the pass-books and the ledger by the trustees?—That is one of the

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Mr. MEIKLE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

the checks, but no transaction is legal unless there be two parties present.

978. But in a small bank that is effected by a trustee, not by a continuous auditor being present?—That is so.

979. In a small bank the auditor does not, as a rule, compare the pass-books with the ledger?—In all banks it ought to be the rule, that the pass-books should be compared with the ledger, either by an auditor or a trustee.

Mr. Howell.

980. You said you had a loss of 5,000 *l.* a year upon the small class of deposits, and that you were able to manage the bank by the larger deposits and by the use of the funds, under the 16th clause; is it possible, do you think, for many of these small banks, bearing in mind, as you know, the bank returns pretty well, what number of small deposits and depositors there are in these banks with small amounts, and yet with a large number of deposits, perhaps under the actual amount which you mention in your own case of 8 *l.*, that they would be able to pay the expenses of the bank and keep it open?—There must be great difficulty.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

981. Did I rightly understand, that in practice you apply the 150 *l.* limit to investments, under clause 16?—No, 200 *l.*

Mr. JOHN RAYNER, is called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

982. You are the Actuary of the Bradford Savings Bank?—Yes.

989. You have been the actuary for some years, have you not?—For nearly 13 years. Previously 21 years as clerk.

990. How many branches has the bank?—None; it is only the central bank.

991. What is the amount of money deposited there?—In the investment department the capital is 711,505 *l.* 2 *s.* 7 *d.*, and in the savings bank the capital is 182,602 *l.* 3 *s.* 3 *d.*

992. What is the number of depositors?—In the investment the number of accounts is 4,859, savings bank the number of accounts is 7,254; total 12,113.

993. Then, in proportion to the savings bank department, your bank has a very large amount invested in the investment department, larger than any other bank I think?—Yes.

994. When did that branch of the business begin?—It began in 1870.

995. In what is your money mainly invested?—With Corporations, Local and School Boards, and on mortgages of property.

996. Can you distinguish between the amounts invested in local securities and that invested on mortgage of freehold property?—The amount with Corporations is 136,747 *l.* 2 *s.* 8 *d.*; Local and School Boards, 286,399 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; mortgages on property, 229,764 *l.* 3 *s.* 5 *d.*, at the last balancing time in October.

997. What is the limit of investment that you allow to depositors in that branch of the bank?

Mr. Stuart-Wortley—continued.

982. The limits of clause 39 are applied to clause 16 in practice?—Yes.

Chairman.

983. That is over and above the ordinary deposit?—It is.

Sir John Dorington.

984. Are those small banks in Scotland open more than one day a-week; you seemed to suggest that the English banks give less facilities than the Scotch banks; you have many small banks in Scotland, are they open every day?—No; but as a rule they give larger facilities than the banks do in England, because the trustees appoint experienced officers to do the work.

985. Take such a bank as Lennoxton, in Stirlingshire, with 7,000 *l.*, is that open more than one day a-week?—I suppose not.

986. I suppose Jedburgh Bank with 50,000 depositors, would not be open every day?—I have not in my memory the hours for those banks.

987. I only wanted to know whether in your opinion, the small Scotch banks did give greater facilities than the English ones?—I think they do, and that the growth of the funds shown in the accounts is due largely to the larger facilities in Scotland; but many of the banks in Scotland give very small facilities too; I have little to say for any bank which gives few facilities, because there can be but little public utility in that bank.

Chairman—continued.

—£.500 is the limit in the investment department.

998. What is the rate of interest you allow?—Three and a-half per cent. at present.

999. Has that been reduced from a larger amount?—Formerly we allowed 4 per cent.; it was reduced to 3½, and about a year ago to 3¼ per cent.

1000. What is the rate of interest you get upon mortgage upon freehold property?—We have two or three rates of mortgage on property; we have some at 4½ per cent., some at 4¼, and some at 4.

1001. Do you lend money upon leasehold property, or only upon freehold property?—Freehold property first mortgages.

1002. What is the mode in which that part of the business is transacted; is every security subject to the approval of the trustees?—The application first comes before myself and I take all the particulars of the property, and then we have two experienced men on the committee retired from business; they were builders formerly; and their opinion is taken as to the value of the property. Then it is sanctioned by what we designate our finance committee, before any loan is advanced, and the securities are prepared by our solicitors, or submitted to them in every case for their approval, and also examined from year to year by a committee appointed for this specific purpose, in the presence of the auditor.

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Mr. RAYNER.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

1003. Is it mostly house property?—It is chiefly house property.

1004. Within the town?—I think we have only about two outside, two or three, not any great distance.

1005. Up to what amounts generally are those loans made and what do they range between; 1,000 *l.* up to what?—There are some large and some small. We encourage our depositors very much; those who have saved up to about 500 *l.* we encourage to purchase property, and then perhaps they borrow of us and make their repayments.

1006. Have you had any losses in that branch of your department?—In 20 years we have only had 250 *l.* of principal and some interest amounting to perhaps 200 *l.*; about 450 *l.* altogether in 20 years.

1007. What length of time are the loans made for?—Six months' notice on property.

1008. Without other limits?—They are all at six months' notice.

Mr. Bartley.

1009. They are not repayable by instalments, are they?—They can repay by instalments if they choose to do so. Where the loan is only about half the value we are not particular about the repayments, but if there is any doubt about the security then our committee ask borrowers to reduce the amount advanced till it comes within the limit at which the security is undoubted.

1010. I presume you have made considerable profit upon that branch of your business?—The reserve fund in that department was 28,550*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* ending 30th September 1888, and now it is 30,000 *l.*

1011. Do you charge to that department a portion of the expenses of the bank?—It is not exactly in that way. Of course the salaries are fixed by the trustees and managers, and we take care to be under the mark allowed by the Commissioners in the Government Department, which allows 5*s.* per cent. for working expenses. I find, upon examination, or comparing with other savings banks; that the proportion for that department is much less than in most savings banks, the charge is about 4*s.* 7*d.* per cent., and the rest is taken from the other branch to make up the salaries and other expenses, a portion of what really belongs to the savings bank department, that is, for stationery and such things, and the same for the others.

1012. Do you know how your deposits in the savings bank branch proper compare with the deposits in the Post Office savings banks. I am not now speaking of the investment part, but of the other branch?—We have ascertained this, that the public very much prefer our savings bank to the Post Office savings bank, but I cannot say exactly as to the difference there is between the two; I understand, however, from what I have heard on several occasions, that they very much prefer coming to our bank to going to the Post Office savings bank.

1013. Is your bank open every day in the week?—Every day.

1014. And sometimes in the evening?—Saturday evening.

1015. What are your ordinary hours?—From 11 to four except Saturdays, and then they are 0.71.

Mr. Bartley—continued.

from 11 to half-past 12, and from three to seven in the evening.

1016. What is the principle of audit that you have adopted?—We have a very first class man as auditor, who stands very high in the town of Bradford; he is an accountant, and attends weekly and at other times; there is no restriction upon him, he can come in at any time to examine our books.

1017. Does he in fact come in continually at undetermined times?—Yes, he is generally there at a fixed time on a Monday evening, but of course there is no restriction; he can and does come in at other times; we do not know when he is coming.

Mr. James Campbell.

1018. Is the bank open on Monday evening?—No.

1019. But I thought you said the auditor came in on Monday evening?—He does.

1020. But the bank is not open then?—No; but he examines the business which has been done the previous week. Our committee of management is 24 in number, and two are appointed monthly; they take it in rotation. All the receipts and payments are gone over by the committee of management, the bank-books are examined by them, and they check the books every week; and that is followed up by the auditor.

Chairman.

1021. But the trustees, I presume, do not compare the pass-books with the ledger?—We have one gentleman who comes in very frequently and compares the deposit books with our extracted list of balances; but there is what we call a waiting room in connection with our bank (they are large premises), which is separate from the place where they make their deposits. We find the depositors come in there and compare their books with the extracted list of balances, which is certified by the auditor from year to year; and in that way a great many of the accounts are examined by the depositors themselves, as well as by one manager in particular, who comes in from time to time; and I should think, out of the 12,113 accounts that we have, from perhaps 2,000 to 3,000 depositors' accounts are examined from year to year.

1022. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness with regard to the audit?—Yes.

1023. Do you agree with him that it would be desirable that some greater precaution should be taken in that direction?—My own opinion is this: that it would be better if accounts were sent up respecting our investment department, just the same as the other. We send up weekly accounts to the National Debt Commissioners; and I think it would be a greater safeguard to the banks almost than having an inspector, if they were sent up weekly, just in the same way as we do the others. Not that I have any objection to an inspector; but I think it is a little questionable as to whether the work would be done so efficiently as if the accounts were sent up to the Commissioners from week to week, because then they would see all our receipts and payments, and what had been advanced and what had been repaid. Those accounts are just

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Mr. RAYNER.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

kept in our books in the same way as the accounts for the savings bank department, only they are more elaborate.

1024. But the Commissioners would have no power of examining the pass-books and comparing them with the ledger?—Still I think it would be the best check that could be adopted, and the greatest security to depositors, if such accounts were sent up weekly. The depositors' books could not be sent.

1025. Then with regard to investments on mortgage of freehold security, do the trustees attach considerable importance to that?—A very great deal of importance.

1026. Are you aware that your bank is almost the single exception amongst banks in permitting such investments?—Yes.

1027. Have the trustees carefully considered the question from time to time as to the expediency of continuing that form of investment?—It was thought at the beginning that it would be well to advance money on property, though our own corporation agreed to take all the money that we received from depositors; but when it had got to 200,000 *l.*, then they said we cannot afford to give you the present rate of interest (that was 4½ per cent.), we must have it at a lower rate, and our trustees and managers determined that they would find other securities and advance more on property than they had done, and that was carried out almost from the beginning in advancing loans upon properties upon the very best securities that could be found.

1028. When was it you said that the corporation refused to give so large a rate of interest?—That would be about, perhaps, 1880, or something like that, I cannot speak to the exact year.

1029. Was it at that time that you went largely into the question of loans upon freehold property?—We had advanced a good many loans upon freehold property up to that time, but we went in for it much more largely when the corporation declined to continue the former rate of interest upon our monies.

1030. What amount of your money have the corporation now?—The corporation have none of our money; they have paid off all the 200,000 *l.* There is one amount of Bradford Corporation debenture stock which is included in the amount advanced to corporations, and four other loans which have been practically taken over by Bradford and Manchester Corporations, but these are still classed with the amounts owing by the former local boards.

1031. At what rate do you lend money to other localities?—We have only one loan at 3½ per cent., the rest are at 4, 4½, 4¾, and 4½ per cent.

1032. Those are older investments, I suppose?—Yes. Those at the higher rates.

1033. What is the rate that you now obtain?—We have not had much to advance; since we reduced the rate to depositors from 3½ to 3¼ per cent., depositors have withdrawn considerable amounts, so that now we seem likely to have no more to advance either upon mortgage or to local and school boards for some time to come.

1034. That side of the business is not so popular as it was now that the rate is reduced?—No, it is not so popular, but still it is thought a

Chairman—continued.

great deal of; we could receive more if there were not the existing limit.

1035. But I understood you to say it was declining?—It is declining a little, because people can get a higher rate of interest elsewhere than with us. When it was 3½ per cent. they were very well satisfied with that, but now some that have, say, 500 *l.*, think they can do a little better without us, and they give us notice, and we have paid out a great many of those sums that were approaching 500 *l.* People go in for mortgages and other securities. Many of them have become depositors in other banks, and commenced business on their own account; they have opened accounts with the commercial banks after having been trained up by us until they have saved, perhaps 500 *l.*, and then they have gone to other banks and commenced business.

1036. The difference of a quarter per cent. has acted as an inducement to them to withdraw their money?—Yes.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

1037. Do you place any limit upon the amount you take from investors for the purpose of investment under Clause 16?—The limit is 500 *l.*; they may not deposit more than 200 *l.* in any one year, with a maximum of 500 *l.*

1038. Did you find that your investors under that clause belonged at first to the humbler class of depositors?—Many of them were saving small sums until the amount arrived at as much as we could receive in the savings bank department, and then they began with the other department.

Mr. Bartley.

1039. Then your bank really acts, as I understand, as a building society to a great extent?—I think there is some difference between a building society and ours.

1040. You lend money to be repaid by instalments, do you not?—Not exactly in that way. Our committee take every care when any money is advanced upon property that it may remain for years if they choose, but still if a borrower should wish to pay off 50 *l.* or 100 *l.*, we do not object to take it; but there is not very much done in that way.

1041. Do you know about how many mortgages you have got?—About 110.

1042. About how long have some of them been going on; 20 years?—Some of them have been going on for nearly 20 years.

1043. Have you ever had them revalued?—We have had them all carefully gone over by our committee; their value has been examined, and the loans, and where it was thought necessary that any should be asked to make repayments they have complied with the request of the committee.

1044. Has the value of leasehold property in Bradford increased of late?—In the centre of the town I think there is a slight improvement; in some of the outskirts of the town I think that it has not perhaps increased but rather depreciated a little in some parts of the borough.

1045. And where you have mortgages?—I do not think that any of the property we have advanced money upon has depreciated very much; there may be some one or two, but those have been carefully gone into by our committee, and

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Mr. RAYNER.

[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

and where there is the slightest doubt they have asked the mortgagors to make repayments.

1046. But you have not had those mortgages re-valued, some of them having run for nearly 20 years?—Not by any professional valuer, but we have two or three very experienced men, who have been builders, upon our committee, who are out of business, and who take a great interest in these things, and those men know as well as any professional valuer, and better perhaps than many, the value of the property, and what ought to be advanced upon it.

1047. What proportion do you advance upon them?—In many instances it is one-half.

1048. Do you ever exceed one-half?—Sometimes it is over half, up to two-thirds.

1049. Have you got people paying you $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon freehold property upon which you have only lent half the value?—I think it would be rather over that; perhaps two-thirds where they are paying $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

1050. Then the security is not so good?—It is thought that it is not quite so good, and that they should pay a little more interest; that is the work of our committee.

1051. Then, with reference to the audit, you say that a manager visits continually; does he make any written report of his visits?—Do you refer to the unpaid manager.

1052. Yes?—He does speak out sometimes in the meeting.

1053. But does he make any written report?—No, not any written report.

1054. Does he mark the books that he sees?—He sees that they are marked by one of the clerks.

1055. But does he mark them himself?—No.

1056. Does he mark the ledger?—No.

1057. There is no record of his having seen any of the depositors' books, is there?—There is a record made by ourselves of his having seen a great many of them.

1058. How do you mean?—By the clerks, in his presence.

1059. But he does not make a mark himself?—No.

1060. You say that from 2,000 to 3,000 depositors' books are examined in this way out of 12,000?—Yes, by the unpaid manager and depositors themselves.

1061. But you have nothing to show that?—No written evidence.

1062. You could not prove that the manager had seen any particular book at any time, could you?—Yes, I think we could, in many instances.

1063. How?—Because he attends upon certain days when we have most depositors present; he is generally present upon those days, and those ticks are made by clerks as he examines the books, and we take his signature at the end of the business to show that he was at the bank that day.

1064. Then it is pretty well known when he comes?—He attends upon the 1st April and the 1st October, but there are other days when it is not certain whether he would attend or not.

1065. How often would he attend during the year, twice?—I should think he would be there a dozen times.

0.71.

Mr. Bartley—continued.

1066. Upon fixed dates?—Two are fixed dates, the 1st April and the 1st October, but those others are not fixed.

1067. Do you consider that is any audit?—I think the depositors have even a better chance than that of finding out any error, if there were one, because there is a separate room from the bank where they can come in and compare their books themselves, and if they do not understand the figures they can ask other depositors to explain them.

1068. That is to say, the annual balance sheet is hung up?—Yes, the extracted list of balances, which is verified by the auditor as being correct, and a tick put opposite each amount, the principal and interest being added together, so that each depositor can see for himself when he comes into the room as to whether the published account agrees with his book or not.

1069. Have you any reason to know the number who examine that list?—There are 2,000 a year, as I gather from this manager, who come so frequently, and we have never heard that there has been any discrepancy found. If any discrepancy were found between a depositor's book and ours they would soon make a noise about it, and we should hear of it.

1070. Are you satisfied with the audit system in your bank?—I think it would be better if there were another auditor in addition to the present one, who should come in at any time when he chooses and examine the pass-books. There might be one to take it weekly and another to take it at any time and examine the pass-books.

1071. Then do I understand that you are or are not satisfied with the audit system at your bank?—There is the auditor's report (he speaks for himself), which I think is better than my opinion.

1072. But I am asking you your opinion?—I think it is as good as it can be.

1073. Then why do you want an additional auditor?—Except it be that our deposit books might be compared, that is the only idea that I have, by some one coming in at any time.

1074. And you think that is wanted?—I think that is necessary.

1075. And that you have not got?—About 2,000 depositors' books are examined by this manager and depositors themselves.

1076. If you say you want something more I should not understand that you are satisfied with it as it stands, or are you satisfied?—I am satisfied, as far as I am personally concerned, that it is right, and that it is all that is necessary, except upon the point that it seems desirable that more depositors' books should be examined.

1077. You are quite satisfied with it except that you think that more ought to be done to audit the pass-books?—Yes.

1078. Is not that the very essence of the audit?—I do not think that is the chief part of the auditor's duties.

Mr. James Campbell.

1079. In the deposit department your customers are all depositors who have come up to their limit in the savings bank department?—No, not all of them.

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1080. Do

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MR. RAYNER.

[Continued.]

Mr. James Campbell—continued.

1080. Do you take any money from outside people who are not depositors in the savings bank?—Yes.

1081. That is quite different from what we have heard of the system in Glasgow?—It is different from that rather.

1082. You take new customers not connected with the savings bank at all?—We have been accustomed to do that in former years, but latterly we have been keeping them more to the old department rule, say 30% a year, with a maximum of 150*l*.

1083. But in the deposit department you have not made it the rule to confine yourself to the 30*l*. a-year?—No.

1084. You have spoken of a manager who does a good deal in the way of examining the books. Does he act voluntarily, or is he instructed by the committee to do so?—He acts voluntarily.

1085. Then it is not by any arrangement with the committee?—The committee know that he does attend very frequently, and they are highly pleased that he is so willing to give his time in that way.

1086. What I want to know is, if this is his own individual action, or is it part of the system of the bank?—It is part of the system of the bank; when we are very busy, knowing that he is out of business and willing to come in, we send for him, and he is always willing to give his services in that way.

1087. He is the only one of the trustees who examines the pass-books?—He is the only one.

Mr. Kenrick.

1088. Does he come at uncertain periods; does he decide himself when he will examine the pass-books, or does he come at any time?—He comes on the 1st April and the 1st October, but he also comes in on other dates.

1089. What does he do upon the 1st of October and the 1st of April?—That is the time when we are most busy; we are receiving interest from the borrowers and paying interest to the depositors, and there is a great rush of business upon those two dates, and he is best able to assist us upon those occasions, and that is why we ask him to come.

1090. As I understand you, he simply assists in carrying on the ordinary work of the bank, or does he come as a check?—He receives and pays the money upon those dates, and signs the deposit books.

1091. He does not come for an audit in any way; he is not an auditor?—He is one of those on the managing committee who attends in his turn. They take it by rotation; he comes and examines the books for that month; he is one of those who examine the books.

1092. You have heard of the scheme that is in force at the Glasgow Bank, that there the auditors came in at various times, took the books as they came in from the depositors, examined them with the ledger, and stamped them?—Yes.

1093. Is there a similar plan enforced at Bradford?—The auditor does not come in.

1094. Does anyone come in who does that?—The clerks compare the books.

1095. Do the trustees do that?—This particular trustee that I have spoken of does it; he

Mr. Kenrick—continued.

compares the pass-books with the list of balances which are extracted from the ledgers.

1096. He does that upon two occasions in the year, and also at other times?—And also at other times as well.

1096*. The comparison is not made with the ledger; he does not take the book as it comes in and compare it with the ledger, but what, as I gather from you, he does is to compare the book with the balance abstracted from the ledger?—That is tantamount to it.

1097. It is tantamount to it upon the two particular days you have mentioned, because the books are then balanced; but at other times before the balance is struck, does he go through the whole of the books?—A great many of our depositors come in between those two dates; they have not had their interest put down, and when they come in, though it may be at a different date, yet the unpaid manager sees what interest is due to them, and what principal; he compares them in that way.

1098. He compares the two amounts of interest and principal with what stands to the depositor's credit in the ledger?—Not in the ledger, but in this abstract list of balances, which is taken from the ledger.

Mr. Bartley.

1099. Who extracts the balances?—We ourselves, and the auditor certifies the accuracy of the balances; every amount is certified to be correct by the auditor.

1100. But does the auditor read it over with the ledger?—Yes, he goes all through the ledgers and compares this list of balances.

Mr. Barbour.

1101. You do not calculate the interest for any period less than a month, do you?—We calculate the interest six months forward, and as regards any deposit made during the half year, we calculate the interest upon that amount forward up to the day upon which the deposit was made.

1102. You do not calculate the interest from the day upon which the deposit is paid in, do you?—For the whole month only.

1103. When is the interest credited; not till the end of the six months, I take it?—In the investment department on the 1st April and the 1st October, and in the other department on the 20th May and the 20th November.

1104. You are talking now of the ordinary savings bank?—In the savings bank department the interest days are the 20th May and the 20th November; in the investment department they are the 1st April and the 1st October.

Mr. Hayden.

1105. Do you invest now with the Corporation at a lower rate of interest than you formerly did?—We do not invest with the Corporation now, because we cannot get the rate of interest. I think our committee would prefer investing with the Corporation if we could get a better rate, so as to allow 3½ per cent. to the depositors.

1106. What interest can you get from the Corporation?—3½ per cent.

1107. And it is because you cannot invest with them that you invest in the other investments?—Yes.

1108. In

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Mr. RAYNER.

[Continued.]

Mr. Howell.

1108. In the Return No. 285, laid before the House of Commons in 1887, I see that there are 11 trustees and 106 managers of the Bradford Bank; have you any idea how many of those gentlemen really take any practical share in the supervision of the bank?—The managing committee, who are 24 in number, are elected annually, and they have really the responsibility.

1109. Do the 24 who compose the managing committee all of them, more or less, come into the bank frequently during the year?—They all come into the bank frequently during the year, and they spend a great deal of time in examining the books.

1110. The whole of the 24?—Yes, the whole of the 24 come in rotation; there are two appointed every month; they take it in rotation.

1111. You suggested a little while ago that one manager performed a very large share of the duty at the bank; you do not mean, I presume, that the 24 leave it to the one manager?—No, he comes in when we are extra busy to help us in receiving and paying the money; that is all the difference between him and the others.

1112. The 24 take their fair share by rotation?—They do.

Mr. Kenrick.

1113. You told the Committee something about calculating the interest six months forward; would you kindly explain what is meant by that?—Supposing it was 30*l.* they deposited upon the 20th May, that interest would be calculated forward to the 20th November, say 9*s.*

1114. Do you mean upon the 20th of November?—We calculate it forward at the time he makes his deposit.

1115. What security have you that he keeps it with you there for six months?—Because if the money only remains one month, then five months would be taken off it, and he would only have one month's interest attributed to him. We think that is a very simple way.

1116. What is the motive for that; would it not be more simple to add the amount of one month's interest at the end of the month when it was taken out?—The result is that if it remains in at the end of the half-year, it shows the calculated amount of interest.

1117. That is to say, you show interest due before it is earned?—Yes.

Mr. WILLIAM RAYMENT, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

1118. You are an Alderman of Hull, I think?—Yes.

1118*. And chairman of the board of management of the Hull Savings Bank?—I am ex-chairman.

1119. The bank, I think, is managed by 12 trustees and 72 directors?—Yes, we have 12 trustees, and 72 directors, eight of whom form the board of management.

1120. Do the trustees devote a good deal of time to the management?—Yes, they do.

1121. What number of depositors have you?—We have 36,000 depositors.

1122. What is the total amount of their deposits?—The total amount of deposit is slightly in excess of a million.

1123. How does that compare with the record of Post Office savings banks?—Very favourably for our bank. The local Post Office savings banks have about 10,000 depositors, and 111,000*l.* in money, as against what I have mentioned as our amount.

1124. Have the deposits in your bank been increasing of late years?—They have been increasing very much, and if you will allow me, I will put in a return showing the difference between the deposits in the Post Office savings banks and our own.

1125. The figures you have given the Committee show that the working people of Hull have given the preference to your bank, as compared with the Post Office savings bank?—Very much so.

1126. Have you any branches?—No.

1127. Only the single bank?—That is so.

1128. Do you think that the preference shown

0.71.

Chairman—continued.

by people to your bank is mainly due to the fact that depositors can draw out their money at any moment?—It is very much that, and it is also due very much to the local influence of the trustees, managers, and directors, many of whom are large employers of labour, who use the influence they have over their workpeople to induce habits of thrift.

1129. Do you allow depositors to draw out without notice?—Yes, small amounts; if a depositor wants to draw anything over 10*l.*, we require notice of it, but small amounts he can withdraw at once.

1130. Do you follow your rule in practice?—Yes. We may depart from the rule in special circumstances.

1131. Your trustees, I think, have considered the proposals which have been made to the Committee by the Glasgow trustees?—Yes.

1132. Do they concur in them?—They absolutely concur in them.

1133. Especially in the recommendation with regard to audit?—Yes.

1134. What is your own practice?—We have an auditor whose audit is continuous.

1135. Is the auditor an independent firm of accountants?—He is a local accountant of ability and position, and we either change the auditor every two or three years, or we call in another auditor as an assistant to check him every two or three years.

1136. And how does that auditor carry out his duty?—He attends at least twice weekly at the bank, examines the pass-books as they come in, and checks the weekly returns for the National Debt Commissioners and generally

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Mr. RAYMENT.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

generally has free access to all the books, without any control from any one else.

1137. Does he attend continuously during the whole time?—No, he comes in just for a time in the day; the bank is open from ten to three in the morning, and in the afternoon from six to eight on Saturdays and Mondays; he attends during the busiest part of the day, so that he may be able to check as many of the pass-books as he can. From November 20th he is constantly in attendance for a fortnight.

1138. Do the trustees compare the pass-books with the ledgers, or not?—Only occasionally, we have a book showing the rota for the attendance of a trustee every day, and speaking generally, they attend. Their duties during that time are to sign the forms, the daily and weekly returns, and also to examine as many of the pass-books as they conveniently can during the time that they are staying at the bank. We keep a book for the purpose of showing the attendance of trustees, and they sign the book and it states their duties while they were present.

1139. What is the general average of their attendance?—Some one attends almost daily.

1140. For how long during each day?—Probably one hour or half an hour, and during that time they see the pass-books, so that we get a great many of the pass-books examined by that means.

1141. What proportion of the pass-books do you imagine are examined in the year?—We get actually examined by that means, I should think 50 per cent.; that is including the auditor's examination, but really we get the pass-books examined indirectly on every transaction; that is to say, that upon every payment out the pass-book is examined directly with the ledger; but for every payment in the clerk who receives the pass-book, but not the money from the different depositors, has a cash sheet before him in which he enters in one column the money to be deposited and in another column the balance which that pass-book shows he has in hand. Those are compared with the ledger on posting from the cash sheet.

1142. That is by a paid officer?—It is by a paid officer.

1143. Then the independent audit is by a firm of accountants?—And by the trustees examining the pass-books with the ledger to some extent.

1144. But I gather from you that you are not quite satisfied with the sufficiency of that system for the whole country; you still agree with the Glasgow trustees, as to having some extended audit and placing it under the control of a board of supervision?—Yes, placing it under the control of a board of supervision, so that there should be one uniform system throughout the whole of the trustee savings banks, and that there should be some authority to see that the system is properly carried out; in our opinion that is the only weak part of the Act; we feel that otherwise it is sufficient for all purposes.

1145. I presume also you feel great confidence in your own bank, yet not perhaps to the same extent in the smaller banks, and you think a failure would operate disadvantageously to your own?—Yes, that is the way I put it.

1146. Therefore you think it desirable, do you

Chairman—continued.

not, that there should be some general system of audit over the whole of those banks?—Yes.

1147. And you think that that might be effected by a board of supervision?—Yes.

1148. Would your bank be prepared to contribute towards the expenses of this board of supervision?—Very willingly.

1149. Does your bank take much advantage of Clause 16, the supplementary department?—Yes, we have about 300,000 *l.* in the supplementary department and 800,000 *l.* in the ordinary department.

1150. What is the limit you allow now?—We allow 3½ per cent. in the supplementary department.

1151. But what is the amount?—£. 500.

1152. In what securities do you invest the monies?—We invest them almost entirely in securities secured by rates, such as corporations, school boards, and local boards.

1153. Mostly with the local authorities of Hull?—We have about 100,000 *l.* in the Hull local school board out of the 300,000 *l.*

1154. What interest do you get?—We are getting 3½ per cent. interest, and are allowing 3¼ per cent. to depositors.

1155. Do you find that margin sufficient to pay the expenses?—Yes, ample.

1156. And also to give you a reserve fund?—Yes, we have a reserve fund of about 5,000 *l.*

1157. What rate is that accumulating at?—It is being added to at the rate of 1,000 *l.* a year.

Mr. Bartley.

1158. That is net profit?—Yes.

Chairman.

1159. I understand you generally that you concur with the recommendations put forward by the actuary of the Glasgow Bank?—Yes.

1160. Those have been considered by your trustees and they thoroughly concur in them?—That is so.

Mr. James Campbell.

1161. In the investment department, are your customers all depositors of the savings bank?—Yes, the whole of them. We do not take anything from them unless they have 50 *l.* in the ordinary department.

1162. What salary does the auditor receive?—£. 100 a year.

Mr. Mowbray.

1163. Do you keep the accounts of your investment separate from the other department?—Quite separate.

1164. What expenses do you charge to it?—We charge a small proportion only. We carry what we think would cover the expenses of the year to it annually; it does not amount to much.

1165. Do you ever alter the rate of interest that you are paying to your depositors upon investment?—We have done it. We paid them formerly 3½ per cent., and we have had to reduce the rate to 3¼ per cent.

1166. You do not allocate to any particular deposit any particular security?—No; I can show you a receipt showing the terms upon which we receive the money. (*The same was handed in.*)

1167. You

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Mr. RAYMENT.

[Continued]

Mr. Mowbray—continued.

1167. You take the risk of the rise or fall of the securities in which you put the money?—Yes, but we are at liberty to alter or vary the rate of interest.

1168. All the depositors are entitled to is to get out the same amount as they put in?—Yes.

1169. What notice do you require?—Three months' notice is what we require. We have the right of extending the time if circumstances should require it.

Mr. John Ellis.

1170. Do I understand the success of your bank, as you consider it, to depend entirely upon the assiduity and diligence of your committee?—Yes, I believe so; I believe the confidence the people have in the board of directors and the management.

1171. Do all of them take a special interest in the work?—Yes, perhaps more than most public bodies. It is looked upon in Hull as a philanthropic institution, and by the circulation of pamphlets and the delivery of lectures and so on, it has been the object of the trustees to institute and encourage habits of thrift amongst the working classes.

1172. Have you any idea of the percentage of books that are actually examined by the auditor?—It is in the return. I do not remember exactly.

1173. Would you say 20 per cent.?—I should think it would be more than that.

1174. Does he attend daily?—He attends not less than twice every week; he comes and goes when he likes; he has free access to every thing at all times.

Mr. Howell.

1175. You take a declaration from all the depositors, I presume?—Yes, we take a declaration. This is the deposit note: "Deposit Note, Supplementary Investment Department, Hull, 188—. I herewith deposit with the trustees of the Hull Savings Bank the sum of pounds, and request them to invest a like amount for me, conjointly with any other moneys received by them, in the supplementary investment department, upon such securities as they in their judgment may deem expedient, and I hereby undertake to hold the said trustees harmless and indemnified against any loss that may at any time arise, under and by reason of any such investment, providing the same be in accordance with the bank's 12th rule. The bank will allow the depositors interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum, retaining the difference of interest received for expenses and contingencies, and deposits will be repayable on three months' notice, unless otherwise ordered by the managers." That is signed by the depositor.

1176. That is the contract note really in which they contract themselves out of any liability on the part of the trustees?—That is the declaration; we may take it for whatever it is worth.

1177. That is scarcely a declaration; the declaration I referred to was that under the Act, namely, that they are not depositors in any other savings banks?—We always take that as well.

071.

Mr. Howell—continued.

1178. But this is scarcely a declaration; it is practically a contract on the part of a depositor not to hold the trustees personally liable?—That is so.

1179. Why was that contract not first instituted and exacted from the depositors?—It was in existence when I first came into office. I do not remember its origin, but I believe it came into operation with the department on the first opening.

1180. You do not remember whether there was anything in connection with the previous history of the bank to cause such a contract to be deemed necessary or desirable?—No, I never did, nor do I think there ever was. I do not know whether it is not the custom in other banks, but it is the custom in our bank.

Mr. Mowbray.

1181. The contract note only applies to investments under Section 16?—That is so.

Mr. Howell.

1182. Have you ever had a case in which the validity of the note has been questioned?—No, we never had.

1183. There has never been any dispute arising between the depositors and the bank?—Not that I am aware of.

1184. Will you read Clause 12 of your own rules?—Clause 12 is, "Subject to the provisions of the Savings Bank Act, 1880, and the Government Annuities Act, 1882, no money shall be received of any depositor which shall in any one year ending 20th November exceed the sum of 30 l. nor more than 150 l. in the whole, *exclusive of compound interest*; and whenever the amount standing in the name of a depositor shall amount to 200 l. interest thereon shall cease while it remains at that sum. And whereas the Savings Bank Act, 26 & 27 Vict. c. 87, s. 16, contemplates the receipts by savings bank trustees of moneys for purposes other than payment into the Bank of England to the account of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and authority is thereby given to such trustees to apply any such moneys in any other manner for the benefit of the several depositors according to the rules of such savings banks; now, in pursuance of that section, depositors may (with the sanction of the trustees or actuary) open separate accounts in which all moneys received on such accounts (except such sums as from time to time shall necessarily remain in the hands of the treasurer to answer payments to be made in respect of accounts opened under this rule) shall, at the discretion of the managing committee, be invested by the trustees in the Parliamentary stocks or funds of Great Britain, or in Exchequer bonds or bills, or in the mortgages, bonds, or debentures of any company or public body in Great Britain, authorized by Charter or Act of Parliament to borrow money at interest, for the purpose of making or maintaining any railway, dock, canal, harbour, waterworks, or other public work in Great Britain, or on the security of any county, borough, or other rates, authorised to be levied or mortgaged by Act of Parliament. All such investments shall be made for the benefit and at

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Mr. RAYMENT.

[Continued.]

Mr. Howell—continued.

the sole risk of the depositors by whom separate accounts have been spent opened this rule."

1185. Have you any limit?—We limit the amount in the supplementary department to 500 l.

1186. That is, 500 l. plus the 200 l. which there might be in the savings bank department?—Yes, that is so. I think it would be a great pity to do away with the supplementary department, for we find very great difficulty in persuading people to invest in the public funds, that is, Government stock; we have had instances in which when they come to be paid out, we have had to sell stock for a smaller amount than they have put in; and that has brought our bank rather into disrepute than otherwise in connection with dealing in Government funds. People think that when they pay in 100 l. they ought to get 100 l. out, and when there is a fall in the funds and they get 99 l. 17 s. 6 d. or so they think it is a fraud.

Mr. Bartley.

1187. Do not you think you should teach them?—They will get educated, no doubt, in course of time; but if you shut them out from our supplementary department you will drive them into building societies and other securities of a doubtful nature.

Chairman.

1188. Under your system the depositors get a better rate of interest and they get the *corpus* of their deposits back again?—Yes; in Hull there are plenty of building and loan societies, and when anything of that sort crops up people are tempted to go into it, and you cannot prevent people going into it; you cannot convince them of the risk they run.

Mr. Howell.

1189. Is it any part of your duty to explain the nature of consols and their action to them?—We explain to them that there is a fall in the funds, but they say, "We gave you 100 l.," and they think they ought to get it back again. Then there is another thing to the prejudice of trustee savings banks as to which some evidence has been given before this Committee. We think that injustice is done to our bank. In the evidence that Mr. Ludlow gave he accused us of certain carelessness and departure from the rules in not taking declarations in the case of Friskin that he quoted.

1190. Was it affecting your special bank?—Yes; the fact is that there was never any dispute in that case as to declarations being taken or how the business was conducted; but without going into particulars, I will say that it was a claim for a sum of money. A man and his wife were depositors and the money was to be paid to the survivor; they were both in a state of intoxication and they both fell downstairs and were killed. The question was, which of them was the survivor entitled to payment. We referred the matter to the Registrar of Friendly Societies for his decision, and it was presumed that the man, being physically the strongest

Mr. Howell—continued.

lived the longest, and on the Registrar's award we paid the money to the man's executors. I mention this case in order to contradict the statement of the Registrar, which is perfectly groundless.

Chairman.

1191. That is bad law, I believe, because the law does not make any presumption of that kind?—I spoke of the treatment that the trustees of savings banks, whose duties of course are perfectly voluntary, receive at the hands of the National Debt Commissioners; their tone of correspondence is so antagonistic and so discourteous that we find a difficulty in getting proper men to join our board; and I think that is a great argument in favour of the scheme of Mr. Meikle, that we should have the opportunity to do business with the outside banks under the control of commercial men and not men of purely official minds.

1192. You think you have reason to complain of the tone of the official correspondence?—If it did not occupy the time of the Committee I could show correspondence in which, when we have made suggestions, the tone of the replies has been much the same as this, "mind your own business;" I do not say that those were the words, but it was not like the tone of correspondence that commercial men use generally.

1193. What kind of notice would this have been?—Immediately after this unfortunate state of things at Cardiff occurred, we wrote up to the National Debt Commissioners, and suggested certain improvements that we thought would meet the case and prevent any similar thing occurring to any other bank; and the reply we got from them was, that it was clearly defined by the Act what the trustees should do; that the National Debt Commissioners had no power for the enforcement of them, and could only call the attention of the trustees to their duties. That letter was replied to, and no reply was received again from the National Debt Commissioners. I think it more arises from the nature of official business, which in these times is not always agreeable to commercial people.

1194. You use that as an argument in favour of Mr. Meikle's scheme?—I do. There is one thing I should like to say in favour of trustee savings banks, and that is, that I think it is an enormous argument in their favour that although hundreds of millions of pounds have passed through their hands the loss to them has not exceeded, I believe, 2,000 l. since 1863. That appears, I believe, from the evidence of Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Howell.

1195. But have you anything to vouch that that is accurate?—Mr. Taylor comes before the Committee as an official to state that, and I should like to ask is there any human institution of which so much could be said? The Committee are probably well aware of the losses which attend the dealings of the Post Office savings banks, and I should think they very largely exceed the losses of the trustee savings banks; those must fall upon someone.

Thursday, 9th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Barbour.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Sir John Dorington.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Shaw Lefevre.
Mr. Mowbray.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE J. G. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. LOUIS W. ANDREWS, called again; and further Examined.

Chairman.

1196. You have come here, I believe, to add something to your former evidence?—Yes, with regard to the special point of the formation of the association, and the dispute between ourselves and the Commissioners of the National Debt as to the legality of our charging the expenses connected with that association.

1197. Will you state how the dispute arose?—I would first state that my trustees were desirous that there should be plainly put before you the reasons for establishing the Association of Trustee Banks, especially with regard to the disallowance of the expenses by the Commissioners. In the opinion of the trustees, the action taken by the Commissioners of the National Debt was under a misapprehension of the formation and object of the association. The trustees asked other banks to form themselves into an association, and they paid subscriptions to this Association of Trustee Savings Banks. There was a sort of levy made of 5s. per 1,000 depositors from each bank, which they subscribed to a fund. The Commissioners wrote to us for a detailed return of our expenditure, and amongst the items of expenditure they found this subscription to the association and the expenses of delegates attending the meetings.

1198. Have you the letter of the Commissioners?—I have; it is as follows:—"With reference to the following items of expenditure shown in your general statement for 1887: 'Subscription to Trustee Savings Bank Association, 20l.; delegates' expenses attending meetings, 25l. 16s. 9d.,' I am directed to inform you that the Commissioners have been advised that payments made towards the expenses of and in connection with the 'Trustee Savings Bank Association' are not 'necessary expenses attending the management' of a savings bank within the meaning of the provisions of Section 2 of the Act 26 & 27 Vict. c. 87. In these circumstances, I am to state that the Commissioners feel it their duty to disallow the above-mentioned payments, amounting to 45 l. 16 s. 9 d., and to call upon you either to transmit an amended general statement

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Chairman—continued.

for 1887 omitting such payments, or, which will probably be more convenient to you, to debit yourselves in your next general statement with the amount disallowed."

1199. What was the reply?—The reply to that letter was made by Messrs. Logan, Gibbons and Arkee, Solicitors, of Liverpool, and is as follows:—"23rd May 1888.—Gentlemen, Your letter, dated the 17th instant, addressed to the trustees of the savings bank, Liverpool, has been placed in our hands. As we are responsible for advising the trustees that they might include the items in question in their general expenses of managing the bank, we shall be obliged if you will inform us under whose advice the Commissioners are acting; and if a case has been submitted to counsel, perhaps you will be good enough to favour us with a copy, and of his opinion." The Commissioners declined to do that. The point raised was that they ordered us to strike out the amount from our accounts, and that the trustees should pay it themselves. To this we objected, and we took a legal opinion upon the point that we were perfectly justified in making that statement. On receiving the letters from the Commissioners, the matter was referred to the legal adviser of the bank, and the opinion given was to the effect that the Commissioners had no power to decide that the amount referred to in the circular was not a "necessary expense." That opinion I should like to put in. (*The same was handed in*). That is our lawyer's opinion. The Liverpool Savings Bank then thought that it was better to submit their case to eminent counsel, and their solicitor submitted a case for the opinion of Sir Horace Davey, Q.C., whose opinion entirely coincided with the opinion which I have handed in, and which second opinion I beg also to hand in (*handing in the same*). The opinion is distinct that the Commissioners have no power to judge what is a necessary or an unnecessary expense.

1200. I think we had better take it broadly that you referred the matter to counsel, that you took counsel's opinion, and that counsel was of opinion that he could find no authority in the

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Act

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Mr. ANDREWS.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

Act to enable the Commissioners to disallow any expense that was incurred by the trustees under the Act?—We put in that opinion for this reason, that we submitted that opinion to the Commissioners in August last, and they have taken no further action upon it.

1201. I think we had better take it that you have taken a legal opinion, and that that opinion is that your view is right, and that you have sent that opinion to the Commissioners, and they have taken no action?—We have returned our account again to the Commissioners with the item in it, and they have raised no objection to it, and our case is that their objection should either be withdrawn or allowed to stand as correct.

1202. If the view of the National Debt Commissioners were right, they would be very much in the position of auditors, they would have the power of disallowing a payment by you which would in fact constitute a State audit?—It would constitute a State audit, and that would alter the position of trustees very much. If they were to exercise an over-riding power as to what are or are not legal expenses of a bank, and yet decline to take any responsibility, that would very much alter the position of trustees.

1203. Do they claim to have any actual power of disallowing this or other items?—This is the first item I have ever known disallowed.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

1204. Could they enforce that disallowance in any way?—The only way in which they could enforce the disallowance would be to close our account.

Sir John Dorington.

1205. Have they such a power?—Sir Rivers Wilson explained that they had, but said that they would not put it in force.

Chairman.

1206. Do I understand you that the Commissioners have practically withdrawn from their position?—No, we are in *statu quo*, and we want to know what to do.

1207. But the Commissioners have not, as a matter of fact, disallowed the item this second year?—No, they have not.

1208. And you have paid it?—Yes, we have paid it, and we have charged it.

1209. What effect did that have upon the savings banks?—Many of them withdrew from the association upon the ground that the Commissioners had disallowed their subscriptions to the association.

1210. How many remain in?—Fifty-five remain in.

1211. And they have all paid?—Yes.

1212. You think the effect has been to discourage the banks from joining the association?—Very much so; it has damped the efforts of the association very much.

1213. Do you think it would be possible for the association to undertake any duties in the way of an inspection of the method of audit of the different banks?—Yes; I think it would be quite possible if a central body could be formally appointed; in fact, it was the object of the association to discuss the question whether it would

Chairman—continued.

not be within their power to form a centre to which all the banks might apply for information, for assistance, and even for inspection.

1214. To have a certain control over the audit?—Yes; to have a certain control over the audit; that we should be able to put the audit upon a general system.

1215. Would the association be prepared to undertake that duty?—I can hardly say, because the association is only just started, and this damper from the Commissioners is put upon it in its first year; but if this opposition is withdrawn, it is quite possible that they might agree to be a body for that purpose; they would require to have some power given to them.

1216. Have you anything else to say to the Committee?—I wished particularly to raise that question of the power of the Commissioners to make disallowances; I do not know that they are in a position to do much for us, but we have great difficulties sometimes in getting what we want in the way of attention from a central body. We have now had a difficulty about the Trustee Savings Bank regulations, which have been laid before Parliament and approved; these regulations came into operation upon the 1st of May, but officially we have had no notice that there are any regulations in existence at all; we want a central body for purposes of that sort.

Mr. Maubray.

1217. I understand you regard this instance as typical of very large claims which might be put in by the Commissioners to control the action of savings banks?—Naturally; in which case the trustees would not take the responsibility.

1218. And you consider that, in the present state of doubt, the matter ought to be clearly defined by legislation?—We hold that it is clearly defined by legislation at the present moment.

1219. Do you know whether the National Debt Commissioners have taken any action with regard to it?—They told us that they had been advised by their legal adviser, but they did not tell us who their legal adviser was.

1220. You heard Mr. Meikle examined, did you not?—I did.

1221. Is it your idea of this Trustee Savings Bank Association that it might perform the kind of duties that he suggested in his evidence?—Yes.

1222. And you would consider that the expenses of such an association were a necessary part of the business of carrying on a savings bank?—Distinctly so.

1223. And you claim to be the sole judges of what is necessary and what is not?—Yes, we claim that the Act states so. In the second section it says that the trustees shall deduct what they deem necessary.

Sir John Dorington.

1224. Do you approve of this particular paragraph in Mr. Meikle's suggestion with regard to the power of inspection?—That Parliament be asked to grant power, yes; I think it would be a very useful thing if we had such a body of inspectors, but I doubt whether Parliament would ever grant such a body.

1225. But

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Mr. ANDREWS.

[Continued.]

Sir John Dorington—continued.

1225. But if you could form it out of your own bodies, you think that would be desirable?—If we had the power, I think we could form such a body.

1226. And get it to work?—Yes.

Sir John Dorington—continued.

1227. And provide the means for paying for it?—Yes, and provide the means for paying for it; the larger banks would have to provide the means for paying for it.

Mr. WILLIAM BRYHAM ROPER, called in ; and Examined.

Chairman.

1228. You are the Actuary of the Savings Bank at Preston?—I am.

1229. You desire to give an explanation with regard to a question which was put in this Committee by Mr. Howell?—Yes.

1230. What is the explanation which you desire to make?—The question is this: "You mention the Preston Bank; do you know whether that was the same bank as came to grief, and had to suspend payment 12 or 14 years ago?" To which Mr. Ludlow's answer was: "I do not know that"; that will be found at No. 113 in the evidence of Mr. Ludlow in 1888. My only point is that my trustees, and there is one of them here this morning, had that matter under consideration, and I was asked by the trustees to write to Mr. Howell; and I am glad to say that Mr. Howell has withdrawn that statement satisfactorily to the trustees; but still they thought that as that statement had been made publicly and

Chairman—continued.

printed in the Minutes of this Select Committee, they ought to have the opportunity of denying such a statement; the fact is that the Preston Savings Bank is one of the most prosperous in the country and has never had any occasion to stop payment; on the contrary, we have not only a large number of depositors and a large capital, but we also have a large surplus fund.

1231. You have had a correspondence with Mr. Howell upon the subject, and he wrote to the effect that he withdrew the statement?—That he was under a wrong impression.

1232. Mr. Howell was, I think, alluding to the Preston Bank itself, which was a joint stock bank, and not to the Preston Savings Bank?—That is so.

1233. You wish to have it put upon the notes that the result of the correspondence between yourself and Mr. Howell was that he withdrew this statement?—Yes.

Sir CHARLES RIVERS WILSON, K.C.M.G., called again ; and further Examined.

Chairman.

1234. SINCE you were last examined before this Committee, various questions have arisen upon which I think it would be desirable to obtain your opinion. The first is the question of what constitutes the "necessary expenses" of a savings bank. Evidence has been given to-day before this Committee from the savings bank at Manchester to the effect that the National Debt Commissioners have had a controversy with that bank upon certain contributions which they paid away to an association of Trustee Savings Banks, and it was stated that the National Debt Commissioners had objected to that payment and had refused to pass their account?—The matter was, I think, adverted to upon the occasion of my previous evidence, but since that time I have had some more correspondence with the Manchester Savings Bank upon the subject, and the question has been left in abeyance in the hope that there might be some expression of opinion on the part of the Committee which might lead, perhaps, to some alteration of the law, and which would extricate us from the rather difficult position in which we find ourselves at the present time. We held that a subscription on the part of the savings banks for the support of an association such as you mentioned was not a "necessary expense" within the meaning of the statute, and in that expression of opinion we were fortified by the advice of our usual legal adviser. The Manchester Bank, I believe, acting in concert with some of the other banks, referred the question to

Chairman—continued.

Sir Horace Davey, who advised them that the National Debt Commissioners had no *locus standi* in the matter, and had no discretion as to the disallowment of those items. Notwithstanding that expression of opinion, our own legal adviser still holding to his first view, there appeared to be no option for us or for the banks if the case were to be decided but a reference to a court of law. That was a course of proceeding which was not desirable if a settlement of the question could be come to in any other manner, so that I have held my hand and suspended all action in the matter until I might have this opportunity of mentioning the case to the Committee, and possibly as I said just now of eliciting from them some expression of opinion which might guide our proceedings in the future, and might perhaps lead to an alteration in the law.

1235. If your view be correct it would almost amount to this, that you are almost official auditors of the banks, would it not?—I should not go so far as that. The Act imposes certain duties upon us in reference to this matter, inasmuch as we are authorised "to require from time to time of and from the trustees and managers of any savings bank a detailed statement of all the expenses whatever incurred by the said trustees and managers in the management" of the bank; that is Section 57 of the 26th & 27th Vict. c. 87. In interpreting that provision of the Act we had to consider what expenses were "necessary expenses," and as far

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

as that went we considered that we had a duty imposed upon us of exercising a discretion and a judgment; and in the exercise of that judgment we did not hold that a contribution out of the monies of the depositors in aid of an institution, however respectable its objects might be, was a "necessary expense" within the meaning of the Act.

1236. The clause to which you refer enables you to require a detailed statement; but is there any clause which empowers you, in the event of your not being satisfied, to disallow the amount or to take any step in consequence of that?—No, we have no precise authority for disallowing, although that would appear to be, I should think, the natural consequence of our disapproval. Section 55, as the Committee are already aware, gives us the power of closing a bank in the event of the trustees and managers refusing to obey any orders or directions given by the Commissioners in pursuance of the Act. I may just mention, in elucidation of what I have been speaking about, that the point at issue between ourselves and the bank does not turn so much upon the nature of this particular expenditure as upon the right of the National Debt Commissioners to interfere in the matter at all.

1237. It is quite certain that you have the power of calling upon them for a statement of their expenses, and I presume you have also, arising out of that, power to comment upon any expenses?—That is the reasonable view which we have taken.

1238. The question is whether you can go further and close the account on the ground of any not very serious difference of opinion as to what is a necessary expense?—Undoubtedly in a case of this sort it is not a course of proceeding we should think of adopting; at the same time it is the only power which is placed in our hands by the Act of Parliament.

Mr. Bartley.

1239. But surely the nature of the expenditure would influence your decision a good deal; supposing they subscribed a sum for some outside object, for a dinner or anything of that sort?—It would be a question of degree; I think I mentioned to the Committee upon a former occasion that I had disallowed expenses which were obviously improper expenses; for painting the picture of the founder of the bank; I disallowed those expenses, and no further question was raised by the trustees of the bank; they probably saw the impropriety of their proceedings.

Chairman.

1240. That Clause 55 is a very serious penal clause?—It is much too serious.

1241. You could not well put it in force except you saw that the whole course of the conduct of a bank was likely to bring it into difficulties; but whether it enables you in small items to insist upon your power of disallowing what may seem to you an unnecessary expense seems to be a question. Has it been the opinion of your legal adviser that you are entitled to require that any small item shall not be paid?—The point I put to the legal adviser was whether he held that we were right in our contention that this was not a

Chairman—continued.

"necessary expense," within the meaning of the Act, it is only to that extent that his opinion has gone.

Mr. Mowbray.

1242. The words "necessary expense" do not occur in that clause?—The words "necessary expense" occur in another section, Section 2. Under that section it is open to the trustees to deduct whatever may be required for the necessary expenses attending the management of such institution.

1243. All that Section 57 gives you is the right to call for a detailed statement of all expenditure actually incurred?—Yes.

1244. Then you claim beyond that, when you have received that statement, the power to decide whether or not it comes within the term "necessary expenses" as defined in Section 2?—Yes, that is so.

Chairman.

1245. Clause 55 enables you to close the accounts of any banks when you are dissatisfied with them?—I may say that it is not a power that we have often, if ever, exercised. We should certainly never think of exercising it invidiously. But as the Committee are well aware by this Act our powers are not very clearly defined in many matters, and we have to exercise those powers, undefined as they are, with great discretion; and it is not easy always to say how far we are strictly within the terms of the Act or not. What we have done is to try to interpret the spirit of the Act to the best of our ability and to the best advantage of the depositors.

Mr. Mowbray.

1246. You would be glad, I suppose, to have this uncertainty cleared up?—I should be very glad indeed; and that is why I am glad of the opportunity of mentioning the matter to the Committee, in the hope that possibly they may be the means of extricating us from what is undoubtedly a considerable difficulty.

Mr. Bartley.

1247. But surely what the Honourable Chairman says must follow, that if you have the power of stopping any expenditure that you do not approve of, you are nothing more nor less than complete auditors?—Possibly the argument may rather turn against the practice I have been defending; but it is not sufficiently defined in the Act how far we have the right of objection. I may say that all the correspondence upon this subject with the bank has been of a friendly description, only turning upon our separate responsibilities under the Act.

1248. As far as I can understand the object the bank had in spending this money, although you thought it was not strictly within the Act, it was for the advantage, or at least they considered it was for the advantage, of savings banks as a whole?—Yes; no doubt the objects of the association, as far as I understand them, were to enable the banks to consult some authority to advise and guide them.

1249. Which,

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[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

1249. Which, upon the face of it, is the usual thing?—The object itself does not appear to be unreasonable.

Chairman.

1250. They appear to have contemplated something like a common audit, possibly even a sort of mutual inspection; that is to say, an inspection of the banks by officers appointed by this joint body?—I was not aware that that was one of the objects of the institution.

1251. If that could be done, it would be a great advantage, would it not, because it would practically carry out a good system of audit, independent of the Government and independent of individual banks?—That is a subject I have not considered.

1252. Even pressing the view of your power to the farthest point, it does not actually amount to an audit?—Certainly not.

1253. Because you have no power of comparing the pass-books with the ledger?—That is another question altogether.

1254. It is there that the difficulty may occur?—I have a strong opinion upon the possibility of improving the audit, particularly upon that very matter, namely, by making it compulsory that there should be a continual comparison of the pass-books with the ledgers of the bank.

Mr. Bartley.

1255. By an impartial authority?—Yes, I mean by an impartial authority. It is a matter of surprise to me that that is not considered by every auditor as an integral part of his duty.

1256. You would not consider him an auditor if he did not do it?—No.

Chairman.

1257. Would you consider that should be done by the Government?—It appears to me to be such an obvious part of the duty of an auditor, if he does his duty thoroughly, that it is hardly necessary, I should have thought, that it should be imposed by Parliament.

1258. Are you in favour of a Government audit or not?—That is rather a difficult question to answer off-hand. The whole thing must depend upon the policy that the Government intend to pursue to all these banks; whether they intend to relax the tie which at present exists or to strengthen it.

1259. A Government audit would, in fact, very considerably increase the responsibilities of the Government?—It would considerably increase the responsibilities of the Government.

1260. It would practically make the Government responsible to the depositors?—Yes. Upon the subject of the audit the auditor is the officer of the trustees, and if the trustees did their duty they would see that the auditor did his.

1261. You think it might be more distinctly pointed out in the Act of Parliament what the nature of the audit should be, instead of leaving it entirely in the control of the trustees?—That would be a step in the right direction; and if it is thought necessary in the Act of Parliament to impose an obligation upon an auditor to make that examination, which I think he ought always to make, so much the better.

0.71.

Mr. Bartley.

1262. Would it not be rather an obvious thing to specify such a thing as a part of the audit?—The honourable gentleman seems to think it is an obvious duty of the auditor; but I was casting my eye over the evidence of one of the witnesses, Mr. Booker, who appeared to think that no examination was complete without a comparison of the pass-books with the ledgers; but when asked if he had applied that provision to the Sevenoaks Bank, of which he was auditor, he replied that it had not been done.

Mr. Mowbray.

1263. Would you propose that in the Act of Parliament you should have power to inquire when the accounts are furnished to you as to how far those provisions had been carried out?—Unless there were a penalty attached, and a penalty enforceable by the National Debt Commissioners, I am afraid we should not gain much. The Irish banks are compelled to send in both their weekly and their yearly accounts, certified by the auditor, and also every year to certify that there has been an examination of the depositors' books; you will find that laid down in the 51st section of the Act. At the same time, that is not a complete safeguard, because I know the case of one Irish bank, the Hillsborough Bank, where there were grave deficiencies, and at the same time those certificates were regularly rendered by the auditor.

1264. If those certificates were not furnished, you would then, of course, proceed against the Irish bank?—Yes.

1265. But supposing the certificate to be furnished, you do not go behind it?—No; we have to take what is contained in the certificate upon trust.

Mr. Bartley.

1266. Have you no means of identifying the signatures?—Yes; we have duplicates of all the signatures in the office.

1267. And those are compared?—Yes.

Mr. Mowbray.

1268. The certificate in the case of the Irish banks is merely a certificate of the result at which the auditor has arrived, not of the process by which he arrived at it?—No; this is one of them (*handing in a copy of the Irish certificate*); it merely goes to the effect that so many books have been examined and so many not.

Chairman.

1269. There is another point which you have come to speak about to-day, namely, the question of double deposits, which, in the case of fraudulent intention, are forfeited to the National Debt Commissioners; how are those cases dealt with?—That is a matter which occasionally causes us a good deal of embarrassment. Under Section 38 of the Act it is enacted that in the case of any fraudulent declaration made by a depositor when he first opens his account, or in the case of any person having a deposit in more than one savings bank, "if, in the opinion of the barrister-at-law," that is to say, at present the Solicitor to the Treasury, "such deposit was made with a fraudulent intention," the depositor shall "forfeit and lose

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

lose all right and title to any deposit in, or to any funds of any and every such savings bank;” and the deposit money is forfeited to the National Debt Commissioners and applied in the reduction of the National Debt. You will observe that that is a very stringent and a very severe penalty. I have had several cases under my notice where we have shrunk from putting in force the law. Cases have occurred where deposit accounts in two banks, or double deposits in the same bank, have been opened through ignorance or carelessness, and sometimes even by the connivance of the officers of the bank, so far relieving the responsibility of the depositor, and those cases have been attended very often by circumstances which have rendered it difficult to apply the law. I may mention some cases which have occurred where the Solicitor to the Treasury, having in the exercise of his duty been compelled to declare that moneys were so deposited with fraudulent intention, the moneys becoming automatically applicable to the reduction of the National Debt, the Treasury, upon the matter being brought under their notice, have obtained permission from Parliament to make compassionate grants to the persons who were losers by this application of the law. I should be very glad, therefore, if it were possible to give some latitude of discretion to the National Debt Commissioners or to the Treasury, enabling them in their discretion to apply or not to apply the extreme penalty of the complete forfeiture of the funds in such a case.

1270. In fact, you find that the penalty is so severe that you do not apply it?—The penalty is so severe that we hesitate very often to send those cases to the Solicitor to the Treasury. I know that the Solicitor to the Treasury is very loth to have them referred to him.

Mr. Burtley.

1271. How much does it amount to in the year?—It is not a very considerable amount.

Chairman.

1272. I suppose those cases arise very much in the winding-up of a bank?—We discover them occasionally in the winding-up of a bank. The hardship more frequently falls upon the representatives of a deceased depositor. We have had three remarkable cases in Ireland where double deposits have been made to a large extent.

Sir John Dorington.

1273. Do you mean in the same bank?—Yes, in the same bank.

Chairman.

1274. Would you still retain the power of forfeiting the deposits?—Perhaps some efficacious means could be devised in substitution for the present penalty; it might be the forfeiture of the amount in excess of the amount allowed to be deposited, or of a portion of the deposit, or one of the two deposits might be forfeited.

1275. At all events, you think there should be some power of relaxing the law, either in the Treasury or in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners?—Yes.

Mr. Bartley.

1276. Could you give the Committee any figure at all to show how much it amounts to; it would be rather interesting to know how much had been deducted in that way?—I think I could tell you how much has been applied in reduction of the National Debt from that source; the amounts have not been considerable, but I will supply the Committee with a return of the cases.

Mr. Mowbray.

1277. I gather that you exercise discretion now before the case goes to the barrister?—We exercise a certain discretion now, but it is not a discretion that I should wish to have placed in me, because it would be an invidious task to perform.

Mr. Bartley.

1278. I think you rather break the law sometimes, do you not, with respect to those cases?—I would rather not send the cases forward; I should prefer a mitigation of the penalty to placing a discretion in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners.

Chairman.

1279. Then, with regard to certain charitable and provident institutions which are empowered to invest with a savings bank without limit under Section 32 of the Act, how does that provision work?—The application of the provision in this section is causing a great deal of trouble at the present time; but more especially (therefore I am afraid that rather falls outside the scope of the inquiry of the Committee) in reference to cases arising in Post Office savings banks, where charitable and provident institutions invest their funds very largely. The Act provides by Section 32 that “it shall be lawful for the trustees or treasurers of any charitable or provident institution or society, or charitable donation or bequest for the maintenance, education, or benefit of the poor, or of any penny savings bank, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to invest, with the approval of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, or the Comptroller General acting under them, and under such regulations as shall be prescribed by them in that respect, the funds of such institution or society without restriction as to amount.” The consequence is that continual references are made to the National Debt Commissioners to get their sanction to applications made by such institutions and societies. Then the question arises as to what properly constitutes a “charitable or provident institution or society, or charitable donation or bequest for the maintenance, education, or benefit of the poor.” As I mentioned just now, it is more particularly the case of references from the Post Office that come to us than from trustee savings banks. The investments of those societies with the Post Office savings banks have taken a great extension, and it is extremely difficult for the National Debt Commissioners to lay down any precise definition which shall apply strictly to the wording of the Act. The principle which guides us, as far as it goes, is to limit the application of the Act to such institutions

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Chairman—continued.

tions as have rules giving provident benefits for the members of the society; but we are occasionally pressed by societies which are, for instance, purely trade or strike societies, without any such rules; and I think it would be extremely desirable, in view of the immense extension of these investments, that the law should be a little more strictly defined as to what societies shall really be admitted to the benefit of the Act.

1280. What inconvenience has been experienced by the Government in respect of this point?—The inconvenience which has been experienced by the Government in this direction is, that we consider that we can only admit to this large and important privilege such societies as fall within the definition in the 32nd section, and it is almost impossible sometimes to draw the line, and to say whether some of these societies having very large funds do come within the meaning of the Act or not. It involves a large and very important consideration, the amount being very large. I am not in a position to say what the amount is which is invested, particularly with the Post Office savings banks, but it must be large, and is growing. The Committee are aware that the amount invested in the savings banks in the two classes is something like 105,000,000 £., and the deposits are increasing at a very rapid rate, and it is a matter for consideration whether this privilege is to be made at all; or, if maintained, within what limits it should be maintained and applied.

Mr. Bartley.

1281. Do I understand that every single instance of a society depositing has to come before you?—Every society which desires to invest beyond the limits specified by the Act, namely, 300 £., has to be referred to the National Debt Commissioners.

1282. Each individual one?—Yes, each individual one.

1283. That seems rather cumbrous, does it not?—It is cumbrous, extremely inconvenient, and an extremely invidious task.

Chairman.

1284. Do you give them the same rate of interest as the other depositors?—Yes, they are governed by all the rules applying to private depositors, excepting that particular one as to the limit.

1285. Have you any suggestion to make to the Committee as to what amendment of the Act should be carried out?—As I said just now with respect to another matter, it is really a matter of policy as to whether the Government or the House of Commons desire that these savings banks shall be utilised to this very large extent, as to which practically one can see no limit. And I must point this out, that since these Acts were passed for the benefit of poor investors the facilities for saving money have been greatly increased by the extension of banking facilities

Chairman—continued.

all through the kingdom; therefore it may be a point for consideration whether it is of such paramount importance now to afford those facilities which were very useful, almost necessary, a great many years ago.

Mr. Mowbray.

1286. But supposing the policy of allowing these investments to continue be approved, you would prefer to have the societies defined clearly by Act of Parliament, and that they should have the right to invest their funds with those banks without coming to you for your approval?—Yes, I should be very glad to see the double object attained which the honourable Member has just mentioned, namely, that there should be a more clear definition of what those societies shall be, and also that the National Debt Commissioners should be relieved from the duty of adjudicating upon each case, certainly in the case of references from the Postmaster General, who is equally well qualified to form a judgment as we are.

Mr. Bartley.

1287. Would it not be very difficult indeed to define them under any circumstances?—I think it would be easy to give a closer definition than exists under the present section.

1288. Still there would always be difficulties?—There would always be difficulties, no doubt, and there would be a necessity for exercising a certain judgment. Probably it would be desirable to retain in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners an adjudication in the event of societies depositing in trustee savings banks. I should be glad to be relieved of the power of adjudicating in the case of societies going to the Post Office savings banks.

Chairman.

1289. There is a limit of 300 £. to investments; does that apply to the amount upon which interest will be paid?—No. Those societies may invest without coming to us to the extent of 100 £. a year up to 300 £.; then after 300 £. the fiat of the National Debt Commissioners must be obtained.

1290. It is only when the amount is beyond the 300 £. that your approval is necessary?—Only when the amount is beyond 300 £.

1291. They go in many cases up to a very large amount?—Yes.

Sir John Dorington.

1292. You think that some societies come to you which are not really provident?—Certainly, some of them do, but it is extremely difficult to discriminate.

Mr. Mowbray.

1293. The friendly societies can now invest without coming to you under Section 33?—Yes; but there is no question as to what a friendly society is under that section, because it must be a friendly society legally enrolled or certified by the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

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1294. Perhaps

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Sir John Dorington.

1294. Perhaps you think that Section 32 is unnecessary with Section 33 in?—They apply to two different sets of societies.

1295. You would wipe out all Section 32 and limit the operations with respect to Section 33; is that so?—I do not think I would go so far as that; that would make too radical a change.

1296. Most of the friendly societies are provident societies, are they not?—Section 33 applies to societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act.

Mr. Bartley.

1297. You would not consider loan societies as friendly societies?—The honourable Member has mentioned a case which has caused us a great deal of doubt and embarrassment. I have here a few illustrations of cases of societies which have lately come before us, which might give the Committee some idea of the difficulties under which we labour. Here is a society which is a trades council. I will not mention any name. Its object is to watch over the social and political rights of labour, but there are no rules of a *bonâ fide* provident character; therefore I should be inclined to hold that that was not an institution falling within the meaning of that section.

Mr. Mowbray.

1298. Is that an application with regard to a trustee savings bank or a Post Office savings bank?—It is an application in regard to a Post Office savings bank, but the principle is the same. Then there are societies which have lately come before us, such as industrial co-operative societies, trading societies; though their object may be very meritorious, it is really doubtful, upon an examination of their rules, whether they ought to be called provident institutions within the meaning of the Act.

Mr. Bartley.

1299. They might be called trading societies?—They might be called trading societies, although trading companies to aid poor people, I have no doubt.

Mr. Mowbray.

1300. But practically most of those cases are Post Office savings banks cases?—Yes, but the same law governs the one as governs the other.

Chairman.

1301. Then a further difficulty has occurred upon Section 39, has there not, with regard to the interest upon deposits amounting to something just short of 200 *l.*?—That matter is not of very great importance; but it would be very desirable if, in any alteration of the law, there were a more precise enactment as to the crediting of interest upon the maximum amount of deposits. At present the practice of savings banks is not uniform. The Act lays it down that no interest upon a deposit shall be paid so long as the deposit continues to amount to the maximum amount of 200 *l.* Now the practice of the banks is dissimilar. Some of them credit a depositor when he has got 200 *l.* for the year's interest upon 200 *l.*; another bank would read the Act, and probably it would read

Chairman—continued.

it more correctly, in this way, that if a man had 199 *l.* 10 *s.* they would allow him to receive interest only up to 10 *s.*, and the consequence is that we have some difficulty owing to this uncertain practice. We take rather a liberal view of the Act, and we should make no objection to their being credited with the full amount of interest, although it were a few pounds beyond the 200 *l.*, upon condition that the excess is withdrawn from the man's account. But it would be desirable in any amendment of the Act that it should be laid down in the Act precisely. I should suggest that a depositor should be allowed to receive his full interest upon the maximum amount, upon the understanding that he withdraws his excess.

1302. Then it would cease in the future?—It would cease in the future naturally.

Mr. Bartley.

1303. But the next year he would have it again, I suppose?—It would be a small matter, but it would tend to simplification if it were made distinct.

1304. But are there a large number of accounts of 200 *l.* which are drawing no interest at all?—They would not be allowed to draw interest at 200 *l.*

1305. But are there any accounts like that?—There are a very large number of accounts just under 200 *l.*

1306. They are kept purposely just under 200 *l.*?—They are kept purposely just under 200 *l.* The point is rather this: a trustee savings bank which only allows just the small balance necessary to make up the 200 *l.* would, notwithstanding, draw interest upon the entire amount; that is to say, supposing a man has 199 *l.* 10 *s.*, they would only give him interest, say, to the extent of 10 *s.*, but they would draw interest to the extent represented by the 199 *l.* 10 *s.*

1307. That would be one of their small sources of profit?—Yes.

1308. Is there anything else; you have already told us your views about the audit?—No, there is nothing else that occurs to me on this point.

Mr. Mowbray.

1309. The prohibition under Section 39 of paying interest upon a deposit of over 200 *l.* is only applicable to the payment by the bank to a depositor?—Yes.

1310. You at the National Debt Commission do not inquire into that?—No.

1311. You pay interest upon whatever amount has been paid over to you?—Yes; we are not aware whether the bank gives the full amount to the depositor, or whether they make a small profit, as the Right honourable Chairman indicated.

1312. If the bank do not pay the full interest, that is so much to the good of the bank?—Yes.

Sir John Dorington.

1313. Under Section 7 you have the power of giving a direction to the bank, but you have no power of enforcing that order except by closing the

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Sir John Dorington—continued.

the bank?—Except by closing the bank. I should be very glad that our powers even such as they are, should be more clearly defined. At present we have certain duties imposed upon us, and we have really no means of enforcing those directions that we may give except by the application of the extreme measure of closing a bank.

1314. Supposing you had the power of stopping any portion of the interest out of the amount due to the bank; supposing you had the power to stop what you considered unnecessary expense out of the interest due to that bank, would that meet your views?—Then you must give us a larger power of deciding as to what the expenditure should be.

1315. I am looking at this, that you have power to give such orders or directions as you please, apparently?—Yes, but there are certain qualifying words which I would beg you to notice, that our directions must be “pursuant to the directions of the Act.”

1316. I was not supposing that you would go outside the directions of the Act; but while you have power to give certain orders and directions, you have no power to enforce them except by closing the bank. I want to know whether you would like to have the power of enforcing those orders and directions by stopping a certain portion of the interest which ought to be payable by you to the bank?—Yes, I should agree to that.

Chairman.

1317. Have you read the evidence given before the Committee at their last meeting by Mr. Rayment?—I have just glanced at that evidence.

1318. He makes some complaints as to the style of the correspondence between the Commissioners and himself?—My attention was drawn to that. I altogether demur to the statement that was made by Mr. Rayment; and, thinking possibly that the question might be asked me, I have referred to the correspondence as to which complaint has been made, and I do not think it at all bears out the character attributed to it by Mr. Rayment; and if it would not be taking up too much of the time of the Committee, I would beg to read a letter, which I may call the incriminated letter, and they may judge for themselves. We received a letter of the 4th of May from the secretary at Hull making certain suggestions which occurred to him, apparently in consequence of the defalcations of the Cardiff Savings Bank. The principal suggestion was that the Department should require annually from the auditors a return showing the number of pass-books they had compared during the year, and what discrepancies of a particular nature they had discovered. This was not, I may say, a letter from the trustees, it was a letter from the secretary.

Mr. Bartley.

1319. Was it sent in the name of the trustees?—No, it was written in his own name, “I beg to say,” “I am of opinion,” and so on. We constantly have suggestions of that sort sent us by banks, and this was the answer that was sent to

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Mr. Bartley—continued.

the trustees, because we never write to individual officers of a bank, we always assume that they write in the name of their trustees. The letter is dated the 8th of May 1886, “Gentlemen—With reference to a letter dated the 4th instant, received from Mr. Fullerton, the secretary of the savings bank under your management, I have to acquaint you that the Legislature has provided such checks against fraud and mismanagement as it deemed expedient, and the Commissioners have no authority to require the certificate of the auditor as to his examination of pass-books, which, unless by far the greater part of the books were sent in periodically (almost the entire number, indeed), would not show that no frauds had been committed by an officer of the savings banks, because he would naturally confine his fraudulent operations to such accounts as were not likely to be produced. It certainly did not prevent fraud by the officer of the Hillsborough Savings Bank, from which, being in Ireland, the law required such a certificate as is now suggested. The Commissioners concur in the view taken by Mr. Fullerton that if the trustees and managers do their duty (which is voluntarily undertaken by them in the interests of their poorer neighbours) and strictly comply with the Acts of Parliament instead of trusting to their paid officers alone, as probably many of them do, frauds by the latter would be more difficult. The trustees and managers, however, must be aware that if they do neglect their duties and omit to comply in every respect with the Acts of Parliament, they are responsible to make good any default in the funds entrusted to their management in the same way as any other trustees of property are liable for neglect. At the same time, it is to be remembered that every depositor in a savings bank may obtain the direct security of the State by transferring his account to the Post Office savings bank, and therefore if he prefers to deposit in a trustee savings bank he does it at his own risk, trusting to his confidence in the trustees and managers.” All I have to say is that I doubt whether a commercial firm would have taken the trouble to write that letter. I say a commercial firm, because Mr. Rayment considers that the commercial mind and the official mind are different, that the commercial mind is productive of greater courtesy than the official mind. All I can say is, I doubt very much whether he would have got an answer at all to a letter of that sort, and if he had, I doubt whether it would have been more courteous; certainly it would not have been so full as that he got from the National Debt Commissioners. I altogether deny that it was in any way scant courtesy.

Chairman.

1320. You consider that you were under no obligation, inasmuch as the letter came from him personally, and not from the trustees, to enter into any correspondence at all with him?—Yes.

1321. And you rather went out of your way in assuming that the letter came from the trustees and not from himself?—Yes. That gentleman then rejoined in a letter making some further observations,

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Chairman—continued.

observation, but there seemed to us to be no object in pursuing a question which had no practical bearing as regards the savings bank.

1322. It seems to me that it is scarcely open to the objection that it amounted to saying, "Mind your own business;" on the contrary, it entered very fully into his suggestions?—I venture to think so.

Mr. Bartley.

1323. I want to ask you about the return from Ireland where you say they do look at the books. From this return, am I not correct in supposing that the number of books examined is simply those that happened to be there upon a particular day?—That I cannot say; we have no means of controlling the auditor.

1324. But does not the form say "In pursuance of the Act 26th and 27th Vict. chapter 87, section 51, I do hereby certify to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, that the following is the result of the examination of the accounts between the trustees and depositors in the savings bank at on the 20th November 1888"?—Yes.

1325. Does not that show that it was only the books that were in the house at that moment that were examined?—I do not read it in that manner, because it seems to me that the reading of the Act does not confine the examination to this particular date of the 20th November.

1326. But would not that certificate imply it. What I am driving at is, and I suppose you will agree with me, that there is an immense difference between comparing books accidentally passing through and comparing books upon a particular fixed day?—I rather gather now that the examination must be made on the 20th November.

1327. You will agree with me that such an examination as that is not worth much?—It is very incomplete indeed.

1328. Then, as regards your position at the National Debt Office, do not you think you might get over the difficulty if you had no responsibility whatever with regard to the trustee savings banks, except receiving the money and holding it for them?—Our responsibilities, according to the Act of Parliament, really do not go very much further than that. As the Committee are aware, our duties consist not only in taking and paying the money, but we have such responsibilities as are involved in calling for the accounts; but that is not a very large responsibility.

1329. Do you not think it very likely that such responsibility as you do have has really increased the idea in the public mind as to what you do for them?—I do not think that there is any general impression that we are responsible to the depositors. I do not see any evidence of that. And, as I have pointed out, upon a previous occasion, we are very reluctant to do anything which will increase our responsibilities or encourage the idea that we have responsibilities.

1330. Do you not think possibly it would be a solution of the difficulty if it were recognised that you had no possible responsibility except for holding the money that was handed over to you?

Mr. Bartley—continued.

—That would be a simplification of the case, undoubtedly.

1331. Do you think it would be the best solution?—There arises the question of policy again. If the Government wishes to minimise their responsibility, that is the form it would take, to retain the National Debt Commissioners simply as bankers for the savings banks.

1332. Do you see any middle course between doing that and really and efficiently superintending the savings banks?—I think experience shows that there is practically no such middle course. I have said before, and the evidence which has been given by other witnesses agrees with me, that the Act, if it is really faithfully carried out by the trustees and managers, is not a bad Act; but we know that the trustees and managers are not always very careful in the performance of their legal obligations, and the consequence has been often very disastrous.

1333. I take it from you that you would rather approve, as the head of that office, of a system by which you became simply bankers of this money, and in no way responsible for the management of the savings banks?—I think it falls much more within the natural functions of the National Debt Commissioners to be simply bankers, and nothing more.

1334. I suppose, on the other hand, you are not anxious to be entirely divested of all interest in the money?—No doubt the large accumulation of funds in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners has been productive of advantage to the Government, or rather to the country at large, upon many occasions. I think it would be very undesirable that the Government should divest themselves of all control over the funds.

1335. Do you think this 100,000,000 £. has been a great public benefit in manipulating (I do not use the word as meaning improperly) the funds for the public benefit?—Undoubtedly. I do not hesitate to say so. I am quite sure that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be the first to admit that the control or possession of those great funds has been of immense public advantage.

1336. And that you would not wish to give up?—It would be most undesirable, on many grounds.

1337. Do you think that if a scheme could be framed by which those banks could manage themselves and audit themselves efficiently, and you remained simply their bankers, that would act satisfactorily?—Undoubtedly. If the Government wished merely to retain the control of the funds of the banks that would be the best mode doing it.

1338. If you desired to prevent fraud, surely that would be the best way of doing it?—I would not altogether say that we have not prevented frauds, because it is difficult to prove a negative, and it is quite possible that the various expostulations we have addressed to the banks have been the means of keeping up examination and preventing frauds.

Mr. James Campbell.

1339. Have you ever thought of any plan for ensuring that the provisions of the Act shall be attended to by trustees, for securing that the Act

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[Continued.]

Mr. James Campbell—continued.

Act shall be enforced?—I am afraid that the only way really of making the trustees more exact and rigorous in the performance of their duties is by penalising, that is to say, by bringing home more directly a personal responsibility to them. In that respect, no doubt the present system might be very much improved; but I am afraid there would be this objection, that there are a great many trustees and managers who would shrink from incurring greater liability than they have at present.

1340. Have you ever thought of the institution of something like an inspection corresponding to the inspection of factories?—I should very much deprecate such duties being imposed on the National Debt Commissioners.

1341. You think that the National Debt Commissioners could not undertake it?—I think it would be almost impossible for the National Debt Commissioners to undertake it. If the Government thought fit (going in the contrary direction to that which the honourable gentleman was alluding to just now) to extend their control over the banks, I think it would be very much better to put such supervision in the hands of an independent body.

1342. At present you have no means of knowing whether the Act is enforced or not, except through the accounts?—At present we have no means of knowing whether the Act is enforced or not except through the accounts.

Mr. Barbour.

1343. You receive all the moneys that the bank send to you; is it a part of your duty to see

Mr. Barbour—continued.

that they do send it to you; that is to say, that they do not keep it in their own hands?—We see by the returns sent to us periodically what the amount remaining in the hands of the treasurer or actuary is; and if we see that that amount is more than is needful for the current needs of the bank, we require them to pay it over to us.

1344. That is to say, it is part of your policy to limit the funds in their hands strictly to what is necessary for carrying on the business?—Yes.

Mr. Mowbray.

1345. If you were acting as bankers and did not get the accounts, would you have any means of ascertaining that the amount in their hands was only what was needful?—Certainly not; we should require to have the accounts if we were to continue to be the custodians of their funds.

Sir John Dorington.

1346. Such funds as they think fit to give you?—I think you would be doing an injustice to depositors if you left the discretion to the trustees, only to pay over to the Government for investment in Government funds what amount they thought proper.

Chairman.

1347. Do you know what condition the Cardiff Savings Bank is in now?—I do not know; we are out of touch with the Cardiff Savings Bank now.

1348. You do not know whether the legal question has been determined?—No.

Thursday, 16th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Barbour.
Mr. Bartley.
Mr. James Campbell.
Mr. Cameron Corbett.
Mr. John Ellis.
Mr. Brodie Hoare.

Mr. Howell.
Mr. Kenrick.
Mr. Shaw Lefevre.
Mr. David Thomas.
Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE J. G. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. GEORGE HOWELL, a Member of the Committee; Examined.

Chairman.

1349. I THINK you desire to make some explanation to the Committee with regard to the evidence of Mr. William Bryham Roper in reply to questions from No. 1228 to 1233?—Yes, more particularly as to the answer to Question No. 1230. Mr. Roper there calls attention to an incidental question put by me at Question 113 in the examination of Mr. Ludlow, when, speaking with regard to the Preston Savings Bank, I asked Mr. Ludlow whether he knew if that was the same bank as had come to grief, and had had to suspend payment from 12 to 14 years ago. That is the only reference whatever to the matter of the Preston Savings Bank, and the incident was only brought to my mind by a statement made by Mr. Ludlow in Question 107, and

Chairman—continued.

there the matter ended. Now, when the evidence was printed, the actuary to the bank wrote to me and called my attention to the matter, and told me that it was another bank, a local bank, which had come to grief; and I then wrote back and said that I was very sorry if the question put had caused any uneasiness in Preston, and there it ended. But witness here said, "I am glad to say Mr. Howell has withdrawn that statement satisfactorily to the trustees." I want to state that I made no statement whatever. It was merely an incidental question put to Mr. Ludlow, and there the matter ended.

1350. It was merely an incidental question put to him upon that point, and you did not desire to make any further statement?—No.

Mr. GEORGE T. C. BARTLEY, a Member of the Committee; Examined.

Chairman.

1351. YOU are a member of this Committee, and you have been for many years connected with the National Penny Bank?—Yes; it was founded by me.

1352. How long ago?—In the year 1875.

1353. The Committee desire especially to ask you with regard to the method of audit which you adopt in that bank. Before proceeding, however, to that point, will you give the Committee a brief history of the bank?—Its brief history is as follows: About 20 years ago I was very much impressed with the importance of thrift in connection with pauperism. I considered that pauperism would largely be reduced if thrift could be promoted, and that the habits of thrift in the country were much greater than was supposed, if they simply had facilities for their exercise. With that view I established a society with the aid of Lord Derby, the late Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Lichfield, and other gentlemen, with the view of doing what we could to extend ideas of thrift, to make known the advantages of the Post Office Savings Bank, and to extend the facilities

Chairman—continued.

of the Post Office. We attempted to get the Post Office banks open of an evening, to sell Consols in small sums, to open penny banks, and otherwise to extend the machinery which the country had created through the Post Office savings banks. Several of those schemes have since been carried out, but not all. We formed a sort of association for preaching thrift, publishing tracts and pamphlets, and establishing penny banks in connection with, and according to the rules of, the Post Office savings banks. In the course of several years about 500 or 600 penny banks were established in this way, and the result of those penny banks was so far satisfactory that it proved the enormous quantity of material there was for the exercise of thrift, and the willingness of the people to become more thrifty. The drawback to them was that as they were largely managed by ladies, curates, and other persons, many of whom changed their mode of life, left the parish, became married, and so on; many of these banks, probably 20 per cent. of them, only remained about one year, and not more,

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Mr. BARTLEY, M.P.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

more, and to the extent of only 5 per cent. continued for two years. I then, with the assistance of Mr. Acroyd, then a Member of this House, Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Derby, and others formed a scheme of establishing a penny bank which would contain the germs of a self-supporting institution, and if ultimately successful would really become a commercial undertaking. With that view we collected about 12,000 *l.* as share capital, afterwards increased to 25,000 *l.*, the aim being that all expenses should be paid out of the share capital, and, supposing the scheme failed, that the depositors should lose nothing, whereas if it succeeded it would ultimately become a commercial undertaking, even paying a dividend.

1354. Those had no connection with Government at all?—They had no connection with Government in any way. All the deposits were vested in the hands of trustees; Lord Brassey was one; Lord Beauchamp was another, and Lord Frederick Cavendish, Mr. Childers, and subsequently the Duke of Westminster were trustees. A committee was formed by persons representing chiefly philanthropic views, including the present Secretary of State for War, who has been chairman ever since the beginning, Mr. Edward Ponsonby, Lord Stalbridge, Lord Lichfield, Sir Henry Cole, Mr. Hamilton Hoare, the banker, and other gentlemen well known in the philanthropic as well as in the commercial world. I estimated that it would take us, if successful, about ten years to become self-supporting; we were, as a matter of fact, longer than that, owing to the rise in price of securities, and the margin of profit being comparatively small. That is briefly the history of the institution, which was a semi-philanthropic institution in its starting, the aim being so to carry it out that it should ultimately become the means of taking care of the smallest possible savings as a commercial undertaking. We have now thirteen branches in London.

1355. What is the total amount of your deposits?—The total amount of our deposits at present is just half-a-million sterling.

1356. How many depositors are there?—There are 70,000 depositors, and the number of our transactions annually is about one-seventh as many in our 13 branches as those of the Post-Office, with its 5,000 or 6,000 branches throughout the United Kingdom.

1357. Showing that it is very largely availed of by the poorest classes for the smallest possible sums?—Yes. I may say as showing that, that we took out a return of the amount of our deposits from which it appeared that 38 per cent. of our deposits are in amounts under one shilling.

1358. What interest do you allow?—We allow 3 per cent. on complete pounds for complete months; it would work out to about 2·7, because a very large proportion of our deposits are fractions of pounds and are held by us for fractions of months.

1359. What is your limit?—We have nominally no limit. Our accounts, that is to say, the amounts held by the depositors, average about 8 *l.*, and we have some with 100 *l.* and more; but, of course, the great bulk of our transactions are in small amounts.

1360. You have very few depositors, I presume, of over 100 *l.*?—We have a good number 0·71.

Chairman—continued.

over 100 *l.*; but, relatively to the 70,000 depositors, they are few.

1361. Do you think that depositors come to your bank in preference to the Post Office savings bank?—Yes, I have no doubt of it.

1362. What is the chief advantage that you offer?—The chief advantages that we offer are that the business is carried on chiefly as a business bank, and that we pay at call all sums up to 10 *l.* or even larger, that the transactions are completely private, and that we cater as a business to the wants of those who make use of the institution.

1363. Are your branches open all day?—No, the branches are only open in the evening. The head office, in Victoria-street, is open from nine in the morning till nine at night; but all the others are open simply in the evening.

1364. Then any depositor can come in at any moment and draw out the amount of his deposit?—Yes, practically. We have a rule requiring notice, because we do not keep a large amount of money upon the premises; but, for all practical purposes, they get their money at once.

1365. What is the legal notice?—The legal notice varies with the amount; it is one month for 100 *l.*, and a fortnight for 50 *l.*

1366. Practically, you do not insist upon that?—We do it in this way, that if a man comes in early in the evening and wants to make rather a large withdrawal, we say, if you will come towards the closing of the bank, and we have the money you shall have it; if not, you shall have it the next day. As a rule, however, in 99 cases out of 100, we pay it, but we naturally do not like to denude our till too early in the evening on account of the large number of people who might come in afterwards; we, however, retain the right to require notice.

1367. Do you allow your depositors to draw out their money from a distance?—Yes.

1368. How is that done?—By correspondence. We have a form of return, showing the places in Great Britain and Ireland, and the colonies, from which they come. We have depositors in all parts; the deposits come by post; in fact, we receive the money in any shape by post, and we pay it out in any way they like. That is a Return which was published some time ago (*handing in a Return*), showing the advantages which are realised by our system.

1369. If a depositor wishes to draw out his money from a distance, how is it effected?—He simply sends up his book with an order saying how he wants it sent, and how much he wants, and he gets it by return of post.

1370. Will you state now the system of taking deposits?—In every one of our branches we have three officers; never less than three. We very often have four in the larger branches, perhaps more, but three is our minimum. Every deposit goes through two hands. It is managed in this way: the banks are so arranged internally that the depositors come up in a series, one at a time. The head cashier takes the money, enters the amount in the pass-book which he initials, and enters the amount in his cash-book; he then hands the pass-book to the junior cashier behind him who enters it in his deposit book by a system of duplication. I have here the book (*exhibiting a book*); it is in duplicate with the carbon process between; those

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Chairman—continued.

sheets are all perforated. The junior cashier enters in the pass-book the number of the transaction, and initials it; and when he has initialled it and entered the number, and made a copy in this book of the amount and number of the book, he then returns it to the depositor asking him how much he has deposited, so as to be quite sure that there is no mistake.

1371. Is that number inserted in every transaction?—It is inserted in every transaction.

1372. Then as regards the pass-book, it is strictly analogous to a Post Office savings bank book?—Except this serial number; and also you get the initials of everybody who has had anything to do with the particular transaction. The object of that is, that if there is any dispute at any time, you have not merely a vague idea that the man did deposit a shilling, or whatever it was, but that it is an absolutely clear transaction, with a serial number to it, witnessed by two clerks, and if one entry does not agree at an aftertime with the other you know that somebody has committed a mistake or a fraud.

1373. When the pass-book is first taken out, I presume you take the signature of the depositor?—I am now describing the process of a deposit.

1374. When an account is opened what do you do?—The signatures are taken in this book (*producing a book*). There is the number of the transaction, the signature of the depositor, his address, his condition, that is to say, if married, and, if he will give the information, his place of business, his trade or calling, and his mother's maiden name, that is a tremendous means of identification of a man. There are very few men who know the maiden name of another man's mother. If they will give the information, we take it, and the duplicate signature is sent to the head office.

1375. And that remains his number for the rest of his life, does it?—No, until the book is full. It used to remain his number for life, but the consequence was that the books became so old, that we now, when a book is full, take a fresh number in order to clear our ledgers. The books are printed in sets, and the number in the depositor's book corresponds with the number in the ledger.

1376. When are the ledgers done with?—The ledger is so arranged that it is never done with until the pass-books are full; it is always big enough to complete the pass-books.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.

1377. When a pass-book is done with, and the number has expired, does the depositor go through the whole process again?—No, it is referred back for the signature.

1378. He takes a fresh number, and against that number, for "particulars" you say, "See number so-and-so"?—Yes, unless he absolutely closes his account when it becomes a new transaction altogether if he re-opened it.

Mr. Barbour.

1379. But a man getting a new book does not run the risk of being entered as a new depositor, does he?—He does not become a new depositor because we refer back for his signature; but as

Mr. Barbour—continued.

regards the account, he practically becomes a new depositor.

1380. You have no motive for restricting him to one account?—No, he may have half-a-dozen accounts.

Chairman.

1381. Would you take next the entry into the ledger?—The way in which the deposits get into the ledger is as follows: these perforated slips are cut up in this form (*exhibiting a slip*). Here is a bundle which came in this morning from Branch No. 2. Those are the slips of the 14th May, and those are sorted in order of pass-books, and the ledger is posted from those slips. That is how the deposits get into the ledger. At the branch those slips are torn off; the perforation is made for that purpose. They have the duplicate copy which is not perforated, so that the one copy is torn off into slips which are posted into the ledger, while the other is retained for reference.

Mr. James Campbell.

1382. The ledger is not kept at the branch, is it?—Yes; that ledger is kept at the branch.

Chairman.

1383. What is the next process?—The next process is that of withdrawal. Every withdrawal goes through three hands; first of all, the depositor comes in and goes to another part of the bank and says he wants to draw; his book is then examined with the ledger.

Mr. Barbour.

1384. Is this a distinct department?—It is at the other end of the bank.

1385. Is it departmentally different?—It is departmentally different, although they are all together. He then signs the receipt-book, and his signature is then compared with the signature he made when the account was opened, and any particulars are asked as to his identity, and if the person is not known everything is then ascertained to find out that he is the real owner of the book; and, although we have had six millions of transactions, we have hardly had half-a-dozen disputes as to the books in the whole period.

Chairman.

1386. How is the identity proved?—By his signature, if he can write; if he cannot write, the particulars in the book are investigated, and the facts of his address, and so on, are taken. Then his book is kept by the clerk, and he is given a little slip of paper with the number of his book upon it, which he takes round to the cashier. The cashier then takes his book, initials it, pays him the money, and hands the book to the junior cashier, who goes through the same process with another book like that, only that the withdrawal book is entered in red ink instead of black, and the whole transaction is serial in that book in just the same way.

1387. In every transaction it is parallel to the entry?—It is parallel to the entry except that it has the addition of the signature of a third clerk who examines it with the ledger. Of course, the withdrawals are more troublesome, and take a longer time than the deposits, because you have to prove the identity of the man who withdraws.

1388. It

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Mr. Barbour.

1388. It is a more important matter?—Yes; because we do not mind who deposits, as the money goes down to the name of the depositor.

Chairman.

1389. You pay nothing without the production of the book?—No.

1390. You do not pay upon cheques?—Nothing.

1391. Not even for the larger amounts?—No, we do not recognise cheques in any way.

1392. Then in its main features your bank is like both the Post Office Savings Bank and any other savings bank, in that the deposit book is the main guarantee?—In that respect it is; but the main difference between our system and any other is the duplicate system by the mechanical carbon repetition of the copy, but that will come up again. Then I ought to say, as an essential part of our office system, that our clerks rotate. The cashier of each branch remains at the branch permanently. People get accustomed to, and like to see a man they know, so the head cashier is permanently there.

Mr. Barbour.

1393. Is he personally in touch with the money?—Yes; he is personally in touch with the money. The other two or three clerks, as the case may be, rotate, that is to say, they move from branch to branch in groups. The chances are that three or four clerks at any branch to-night, when they are changed, will not be together for six or eight months, or a year. We have thirteen branches, and, in order not to move men from the extreme east of London to the extreme west, we divide the clerks into groups, and they rotate in those groups. To illustrate that, let us say that Brown and Jones are rotating clerks. Supposing they are both at Branch 1, Brown would be told, "To-morrow night," that is to say, this day when he receives this letter, "you will go to Branch 2." Jones gets a letter to-night directing him to go to Branch 3, so that they are always being changed; that is, of course, to prevent collusion.

1394. No two are ever together?—They rotate in every conceivable way, so that there is a continual change of three or four clerks in each branch, and that is done without any notice or system or rule.

Chairman.

1395. And that is possible from the fact of all the branches being within a short distance of one another?—Yes.

1396. And in London?—Yes. Then I have referred to the fact that every transaction is in duplicate by the carbon process, and I have already shown that every transaction has a serial number. Then I have also shown that every transaction is registered by the individual clerks who conduct that transaction. I lay great stress upon that, because if there is any fraud it must be upon particular transactions; therefore we could always recognise those particular transactions as having been carried out by individual clerks. Then each day a return is sent to the head office showing a complete record and also sending the carbon slips which I have described.

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Chairman—continued.

Those come to the head office every day, so that after the transaction of the day is past nobody in the bank can go behind it; they are cut off from interference with back work. I lay great stress upon that, because in most cases of fraud you find the fraud creeps in by officials being able to go behind into the back work. Then each branch is allowed to hold a certain amount of money, generally speaking, about 100*l.*; some of the smaller branches have less. We have a notice printed which is posted inside the safe showing exactly how much they may hold. Then every morning, the banks being open in the evening, the head cashier pays into a bank (the London and South Western Bank we use, because it has branches all over London) the surplus. That bank pays into the Bank of England. We use that bank as a sort of collecting bank for the Bank of England, which has very few branches. Then small withdrawals are paid out of the till, but if a man wants a large sum, or the day's balance has run below the arranged amount, he applies upon a form for the money. If it is for a small withdrawal, he applies stating the amount of money he wants, whether it is in notes or cheques, or whatever he wants; those come in every morning, and are sent out for the evening upon which they are wanted. Then all the pass-books, when they are closed, are sent to the head office, and they are destroyed at the end of three years, unless the customers like to have them back; many of them like to have them back, but we require to have them sent in first; they are compared with the ledger, and then stamped with this machine mark "Closed," and then the book is sent back to anybody who likes to have his book. That explains the system which takes place at the branches.

1397. Now will you describe what takes place at the head office?—At the head office there is a further system of audit; those duplicate slips which are sent in every day from the branches are pasted on to sheets; they are all written with an aniline pencil, and in pasting them it really becomes permanent ink; those are the slips pasted in this way (*exhibiting a paper*).

Mr. Barbour.

1398. Moistening them does not wipe them out; it fixes them?—Yes, those are used by another staff of clerks altogether to produce our duplicate ledgers. We make duplicate ledgers of every account, and those duplicate ledgers simply contain the balance of the account; the black ink is the deposit and the red ink is the amount withdrawn. That account (*pointing to an account*) had 8*d.* in it; then the person paid in 10*d.* Therefore the next amount is not 10*d.*, but 1*s.* 6*d.* He then deposited 1*s.*, and then it is 2*s.* 6*d.*, and so on. Then he withdraws 1*s.*, so that the 4*s.* in black becomes 3*s.* in red ink; so that those duplicate ledgers contain simply the balances of every account. The clerk takes the pasted slip, and, of course, by habit they do it almost mechanically; there is 1*s.* 6*d.* if that account had 1*s.* 6*d.* in it before, they put down 3*s.*, so this ledger, in which there is only one column, contains not the transactions but the balances built up upon the transactions.

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1399. You

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[Continued.]

Mr. John Ellis.

1399. You used the expression "duplicate"; is it a fac-simile of the other ledger?—It is a fac-simile of one of the columns; of the total column. Now, having those duplicate ledgers, and the duplicate signature, every depositor who gives notice of a largish withdrawal, or even a smallish one, but a largish one more particularly, we check with this duplicate ledger, and then the notices of withdrawal of the larger amounts come to the office, and we have the means of checking them in this way; that is a very valuable check. Then the next step is that we have two clerks who are continually at work visiting the branches during the daytime when they are not open, comparing the duplicate ledger with the ledger at the branch. Those clerks have duplicate keys to the safe which contains the books, and their business is to compare the duplicate ledger which is made up by the return sent to us with the column in this ledger which contains the total. They take those with them, and read them through with the ledger column which contains the total. The ledger contains three columns, one for the deposits, one for the total, and one for the interest, so that we are continually comparing our ledger with the original ledger at the branches.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.

1400. Do you carry out in the extra column in your ledger the balance of every account every day?—Yes. We have columns for the deposit, total and interest (*exhibiting a book.*)

1401. What is the case with the withdrawal?—The withdrawal is always in red ink.

1402. So that if an amount is withdrawn it will be entered in this column in red ink?—Yes, so that the second column is always a fac-simile of the duplicate ledger.

Mr. John Ellis.

1403. The word "duplicate" applies strictly to the balance column?—Yes; it is a check ledger.

Chairman.

1404. Then these travelling inspectors practically carry out a continuous audit?—It is a continuous audit.

1405. And that is the only audit?—I should not like to say that it is the only audit, but it is one great means of audit.

Mr. Barbour.

1406. I think you have said that when the transactions were completed the books were written up; there is nothing to write up afterwards?—No; they are written up every day. Our rules are that the ledger at the branch must be written up for the day before at the branch before the bank opens; those are entered at the head office the day after; the duplicate ledgers might be a day in arrear, because they are not in use every day. A man goes round the branches, and we read over the ledgers about seven times a year; that is to say about seven times a year is the duplicate ledger read through with the other ledger at the branch.

Chairman.

1407. Then besides the two travelling inspectors who go to the branches on the day time when the banks are closed, there are also other travelling inspectors?—Yes; then, in addition to their doing that, about four times a year we take out the complete balance of all the branches. At the end of the year we take out one; but about three times a year, in addition to that, we take out a complete rough balance; and, generally speaking, those are practically correct within a few pence.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.

1408. You mean you actually balance your ledgers to see that the balance agrees with the cash that you have got?—Yes.

Chairman.

1409. Now will you proceed to describe to the Committee the travelling inspection department?—Then, in addition to all this, we have three travelling inspectors of pass-books; those inspectors visit the branches about once a fortnight, but there is no rule. They may go two days, or they may go three days running, and then miss three weeks, or they may go once a week; there is no rule at all; the more accidental they can make it the better that duty is done. Upon this point I have brought some absolute reports (*handing in reports*). Those are the original reports. The first thing they do is to certify that they visited the branch on a day named, that they arrived at the opening and remained till it was closed, and that the pass-books enumerated on the appended list were presented. "In each case, except where indicated, I ascertained that the balance due to each of the enumerated depositors on the above day as shown in the appended list, agreed with the balance in the ledger of the corresponding account. I also ascertained the stock of pass-books, penny papers, &c., to be sufficient," or otherwise. "The total cash balance in the hands of the cashier I counted, and found that it agreed according to the weekly financial return sheet, particulars of which are appended." Then they send us particulars exactly of what the balance consisted of, not only the total amount in hand, but how the money was made up. I lay great stress upon that. The clerks in their balances not only say that they have so much money, but they say how much was in cheques and how much in gold, silver, &c., and they certify whether that is correct, because that of course is an important thing. Money which is put away in the till ought to be found in exactly the same way in which it is put there, and if there is any change in the formation of the money, it is a little awkward, and requires explanation. Then upon the third page there is a list of all the books they have seen, and a statement that those books agreed with the ledger in the branch; and then when those reports come to us they are again compared with the duplicate ledger; that is tremendous check. I calculate that those inspectors visit about once a fortnight and see on the average about 100 books at each visit, which comes to something like about half the pass-books being absolutely brought under their eyes.

1410. Do you mean to say that every year half the total number of the pass-books pass under

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Chairman—continued.

under the eyes of your inspectors?—Yes, but there is no rule. Then in addition to those visits you will notice that some of those reports are marked “flying visit.” That system was established because if the travelling inspector came at the beginning of the evening they knew he was coming; that is to say, if he only came for the whole evening they would know that if he was not there when they began business he would not arrive at all. Therefore in addition to those visits about 12 times a year he pays a flying visit and goes in for perhaps half-an-hour, counts the cash and sees the books that are in while he is there. Perhaps he arrives at a quarter to nine or half-past eight, so that that does away with any idea of rule or order as to his visits, upon which I lay great stress.

1411. Then besides that there is a professional audit?—In addition to that we have a professional audit; we appoint professional auditors every year. They audit all the returns which are sent in to us from week to week, and eight times a year they make a complete statement of the audit and send a copy of their report direct to each of the trustees. We have nothing to do with that; they send us a copy also, but they send twice a quarter to the trustees this report direct.

1412. They have nothing to do with the pass-books?—No, they have nothing to do with the pass-books.

1413. In practice do the travelling inspectors, who examine the pass-books, discover errors and mistakes?—Continually; you will find upon the reports that I have given you that there are a number of little accidental mistakes; but you can easily imagine that in millions of transactions deposits get posted to wrong accounts and a number of little incidents of that kind happen. They also check the amount of interest; sometimes there are mistakes made in that way, and those are discovered.

1414. Of course a record of every mistake that is made is kept?—A record of every mistake is kept in detail concerning that particular branch, so that we know in every branch how many mistakes are made, and if a cashier or clerk comes up who is continually making mistakes we have to change him.

1415. You attach great importance to the travelling inspectors, not only for the purpose of carrying out the business in a regular manner but with the view to rectifying mistakes?—Immense importance. When I tell you that last year in our 700,000 transactions and 70,000 accounts, nine out of the thirteen branches were right to a penny, and the others only a few pence out, it shows the enormous importance and advantage of this system. Of course it is a very expensive system; it means a great deal of labour.

1416. Have you calculated at all what the cost of the audit is?—Yes; last year the audit cost 458 l. 12 s. 10 d.

Mr. Barbour.

1417. Is that the usual professional audit?—No; I count the travelling inspectors as “audit.”

0.71.

Chairman.

1418. As your branches are only open at night, you only pay your clerks I presume for their evening's work?—Yes. Our rule in employing our staff is that we will not employ anybody who is out of regular employment in the daytime; however valuable he may be, we regard his employment in the daytime as a condition of employment with us. We prefer always bank clerks; we have a very excellent staff; the elder men get from 60 l. to 80 l. a year, and the younger men from 24 l. to 50 l. Most of them have been with us a good long time; some of them since the beginning; but of course many of the younger ones are continually coming in and giving it up; but a large proportion have been with us over eight years.

Mr. Barbour.

1419. What time do they give you?—We begin at half-past six, and they remain till 9 o'clock.

1420. Have those clerks been at their regular business up till five o'clock?—Many of them have been in Government offices and in banks where the hours are short, and they attend to this business in the evening.

1421. And you employ them for two and-a-half hours in the evening?—Yes; it comes to a little longer, in fact, than that.

1422. What is the average pay of a junior clerk?—A junior clerk receives from 25 l. to 30 l. a year; the second class receive from 35 l. to 40 l. a year, and the highest appointments average about, I should say, from 60 l. to 70 l. a year.

1423. And for that pay you can get thoroughly responsible men?—Yes; we get thoroughly responsible men; we get chiefly men engaged in banks and such like businesses.

1424. Is it every day of the week?—Yes; we have an arrangement for holidays and absence days, and so on, by supernumeraries. The work, of course, varies very much indeed on the various days. Saturday is a great day; we have more deposits on Saturday than on any other day of the week. Monday is the next best; but Friday, strange to say, is our worst day always, although wages are often paid on that day. At some of our branches during the middle of the week we do not do so much.

1425. Do you allow the depositors at the central office to draw out during the daytime?—Yes; but not from the branches. We allow our depositors at the central office to draw out at any time; but they are not allowed to withdraw from one branch when they have deposited at another.

Chairman.

1426. A man may deposit at the central office, and then he can deal with his account in the day time?—Yes; from nine in the morning till nine at night.

1427. In the case of a depositor at a distance, would his application to withdraw any part of his balance go to his branch?—No; all accounts from the country at a distance are considered as carried out at the central office.

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1428. You

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[Continued.]

Mr. Brodie Hoare.

1428. You have at the central office a duplicate staff; you have a branch staff and also a head office staff?—Yes; we have two staffs practically; a day staff and an evening staff. Of course, some depositors may come in the evening as well as in the daytime, and that acts as a sort of check, for there are two practically different staffs doing the day and evening work respectively.

Mr. Barbour.

1429. Do any of the clerks in the branches give you their whole time?—No, none; because there are none of the branches open in the daytime.

Chairman.

1430. Do you take any guarantees from your men?—Every man employed has to give a legal formal bond of security. We make them enter into this bond, and there is a fee attached to it which all have to pay. This guarantee fund thus raised was started in 1881; previously to that we used to take it from the Guarantee Society, but we thought we would establish our own system. Our own system not only secures that the man is liable for his own bond, but in the case of a fraud which is not covered by the guarantee, each clerk is liable to a call for a certain amount. This, of course, makes everybody very much interested in the stability of his fellow clerks. The fund now amounts to 1,200 *l.*, and when the amount is up to 1,500 *l.*, the payments of the clerks who have subscribed for five years will cease.

1431. Have you had any losses?—The only loss we have had was a call of 30 *l.* upon that fund.

1432. I think you stated that you had a total balance now approaching 500,000 *l.*?—Yes.

1433. The expenses of the bank are met, and its profits are made by the difference between the rate of interest you obtain for those deposits and the rate of interest you give to depositors?—Yes, that is the profit of the bank.

1434. In what do you invest the money?—We invest according to our articles in securities very similar to trustees, in debentures, Indian guaranteed stock, colonial securities, railway and other debentures, and preferential stocks of railways which pay on their original shares, and so on. We lend some upon mortgage repayable by instalments.

1435. Are those mortgages of house property?—Entirely of house property, repayable by instalments.

1436. What rate of interest do you generally get upon mortgages?—We have got some of the old ones upon which we get about 4½ per cent., and as those drop out like the School Board loans of which we had several, we get less. Now we calculate to get rather under 4 per cent., say 3¾; if we can approach 4 per cent. we think we are doing very well.

1437. Upon house property what do you get?—£. 4 10 *s.* or 5 *l.*; 5 per cent. upon small mortgages. We lend to some of our own depositors to buy their own houses.

1438. Have you had to reduce the rate of interest to your depositors?—No, and I hope we shall not, for the larger the amount we hold the

Chairman—continued.

less the amount of profit per cent. we need to carry on with. As we now hold half-a-million, if we were only to get for the next half-million 3¼ per cent., we should still stand at a profit of ½ per cent.; so the larger the amount we hold, the easier it is to carry on the institution, even though the rate of interest has gone down.

1439. Have you any objection to state what were the expenses of management last year?—Last year the net expenses of management, and when I say net expenses, I ought to say that we have rent of 13 premises for our banks; we always take the whole premises and sub-let them, because we have had instances of people trading upon us, and therefore we always take the whole building. Taking off the rent we receive for sub-letting and the miscellaneous receipts, our expenses are, practically speaking, 7,000 *l.* a year.

1440. I think you said that you make now a little under 4 per cent.?—Yes.

1441. You pay an average of 2 *l.* 14 *s.* per cent., and the difference between those two items enables you to pay the expenses of management?—Yes.

1442. And to pay an additional sum, I suppose, beyond the rate at which you invest; to pay 5 per cent. upon your capital?—But the 5 per cent. upon our capital does not come to very much; our paid-up capital is only 12,000 *l.*; 25,000 *l.* is subscribed. We are about to increase our capital, but if we do it will only be that we shall invest it.

1443. It is almost a mutual institution?—It is almost a mutual institution. We took shares, in the first instance; of course they were chiefly my own friends. They did not take them for profit, although I have always said that that would be the only proof of our success, that there should be a dividend paid. Still it was not taken up for the purpose of making money; the dividend is limited to 5 per cent. Our success has been so great that we recognise that it would be desirable to increase our capital as an extra guarantee; we do not want money, but we think it would be desirable to have a larger capital in the nature of a guarantee.

Mr. John Ellis.

1444. Is the dividend limited by the articles?—Yes.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

1445. What do you do with any excess over the dividend?—That will go in certain parts to form a surplus fund. The only stipulation is that back dividends shall be paid if there is sufficient to pay them; other parts go as a sort of remuneration to myself, and then the surplus will form a reserve fund.

Chairman.

1446. Are you gradually increasing the number of your branches?—We hope to do so, but we have thought it wiser to go on with these 13 branches to make it a permanent and self-supporting institution; because you will understand that every branch at first is a source of considerable expense to us. A new branch with a staff in London cannot be done much under 500 *l.*, a year, and, if we are making 1 per cent. upon the money,

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Chairman—continued.

money, that means 50,000 *l.* of business that we must do at the bank before we pay the cost of the branch. We hope before long gradually, and when we have reached that we shall be able to increase our business without swamping the profit of the institution.

1447. Have you any reason to know that where you have established one of those branches the Post Office deposits have fallen off?—No, I think quite the reverse. My experience, and I speak with some authority upon the point is, that the more you have of these things, speaking within reason, the better for all institutions of the kind. We think 500,000 *l.* a large sum to have picked up in 13 or 14 years in London, but it is absolutely nothing; what is wasted in London every week would form pretty well that amount of money. A penny a week a head in London is over 1,000,000 *l.* a year.

Mr. Barbour.

1448. But do you think that if one man being thrifty made a deposit with you, that would be any reason for another man turning thrifty?—I have not the least doubt about it. When I started this bank, I used to lecture upon thrift about two or three times a week, and I have had men come to the bank and tell me that he joined the bank as a joke, because I had chaffed him by telling them to join the bank with a sixpence to begin with. Such men have now 30 *l.* or 40 *l.*, though they would not have believed it possible when they began.

Chairman.

1449. Do you take deposits in stamps?—We do not encourage that. I do not think it very desirable; it is very apt to lead to the pilfering of stamps; in fact, we say distinctly we will not take them.

1450. You would not allow a depositor from a distance to send you a dozen penny stamps?—I do not say we never have, but I do not think we take in the year ten shillings' worth.

1451. Comparing your bank with the Post Office savings bank, you seem to afford infinitely greater facilities for paying in and drawing out?—Yes, upon that our success turns. We have people depositing money upon the Saturday constantly knowing that they are going to withdraw it early the next week; it is so easy to put it away, and they do so in order that they may not spend it.

Mr. Barbour.

1452. That is an indication of self-distrust?—They say they want it to pay a certain bill next week, or some purpose of that kind.

Chairman.

1453. You are in a certain sense bankers, and you make your business pay, whereas the Post Office are not specially bankers?—I want the weekly wage-class to put their money into such institutions as ours, just as a man in a better class of life pays his salary into a bank and draws it out, and some of it will stick there. It must be remembered that every depositor pays us a penny on his book, and although, you would hardly credit it, we make nearly 100 *l.* a year upon those books. It is a very good pennyworth, but as we print them by the hundred thousand, we

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Chairman—continued.

make nearly 100 *l.* a year profit out of them. That is a little extra profit upon everybody who comes in; even if it is only a penny a depositor gives some profit to the institution. Now, in many penny banks there is a limit as to conditions; some will not take money, except from a working man; we do not care who it is. If the honourable Chairman of this Committee wished to make a deposit, we would take it with pleasure.

1454. Your system is more analogous to the system of the district savings banks than to the system of Post Office savings banks?—Yes; take Glasgow, they do very much in Glasgow or Liverpool or Manchester as we do.

1455. Save that they have no capital, and that their relations to Government are different from yours?—We have no relation to the Government except that we invest some of our money in Government securities.

1456. Then there is the disadvantage to them that they are restricted in the rate of interest which they pay?—Yes.

1457. Except as regards that branch of the business they are independent of the Government?—We are rather more analogous to that.

1458. From your experience derived from your business, what recommendations have you to make with regard to the audit of the trustee savings banks?—My view is that no audit is worth the name of audit unless it is a continuous one, done in the most haphazard sort of way as regards visits and times, and under the most complete and systematic arrangement by which the depositors' pass-books are brought into contact by an independent person with the ledger. I do not think that any audit is worth anything unless that is part of it; the fraud that can creep in unless that is done must be dangerous. I think our system, of course, is very much more complete than anything that exists elsewhere; possibly in some of the banks the duplicate system may not be necessary, but I think the system of serial numbers for the transactions is of enormous advantage. It is not any more complicated or difficult to carry out; and it has this advantage, that you nail every deposit as an absolute transaction carried out by certain persons, so that if there is ever a dispute for all practical time, so long as you have those records, you can trace the individual who made the mistake or carried out the fraud; and the fact that that can be done is so drastic and so serious that, practically speaking, people will not commit a fraud. The only way of preventing fraud is for a person to know that it will be rapidly and immediately found out and traced to him individually, that is the only real check upon fraud.

1459. The other important point is the comparison of the pass-books with the ledger?—That is absolutely essential.

1460. Do you think it is important to maintain the proportion of examinations?—I think we err perhaps on the side of doing rather too much rather than too little. I do not think so many books need be seen if it is perfectly uncertain which books are going to be seen.

1461. It struck me that the proportion seen was unnecessarily large?—Yes. I take the view of Mr. Meikle that if 10 per cent. of the books are seen and nobody knows how those 10 per cent. will be selected, I think the effect of that

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Chairman—continued.

would be the same as if every book were seen ; it is the moral effect that tells.

Mr. James Campbell.

1462. Have you a board of management?—Yes, there is a board of management.

1463. And they attend to investments?—Yes, our trustees are, as I said, the Duke of Westminster, Lord Beauchamp, and Mr. Childers. The chairman is the right honourable Edward Stanhope, the Secretary of State for War, he has been chairman from the beginning ; the vice-chairman is Mr. Edward Ponsonby. Lord Stalbridge is a director, the honourable Henry Brand, Mr. H. A. Hamilton Hoare, and myself. We have a meeting every Thursday, and at that meeting the most important point is the investment of the money.

1464. Those are not nominal directors?—No, they actually attend, and since we have paid a dividend, which we did for the first time last year, they have consented to take fees, though for some 12 years they have acted without. I do not mean that they have taken it for the fees, but to make it a permanent and thorough business institution, they have consented to the arrangement.

Mr. Brodie Hoare.

1465. I wish to ask you about your expenses ; you say they are 7,000*l.* a year?—Yes, about that.

1466. You have, roughly speaking, half-a-million of money ; if you make 1 per cent. upon that you would have 5,000*l.*?—But we make more than 1 per cent., we make, as I said, about 4 per cent. A good many mortgages are standing at 4½ per cent. to 5 per cent., and our payments would be about 2·7 per cent. I may say also that there is another source of slight profit which is perhaps larger than you would think. That is, that during the current year the fractions amount to rather more ; it is difficult to say how, but they do ; all fractions come to us. Supposing we take 50,000*l.* in a year, which is about our average taking. Although we are taking this year at the rate of about 70,000*l.* a year, during the year that is invested, and we make a little extra upon that ; supposing we invest in February or March, we get the whole year's interest on that. But the money is deposited with us in February or March and that money does not produce interest until the end of the month in which it is deposited ; so that those little fractions, though very small individually, do make up a really substantial sum.

1467. But what I wanted to get at is this, could not the ordinary savings banks we are now investigating pay their expenses in that way?—No, they could not.

1468. They could not afford to do the business upon the plan you do yours?—The smaller ones could not certainly, but the larger ones you must remember many of them hold a great deal more than we do. Of course it costs no more if your investments are a million or two millions, than if they are 100,000*l.* The clerical labour of looking after the invested funds is nothing ; therefore those banks which have a large amount of deposits can carry out their business upon a much smaller margin than a smaller bank.

Mr. Brodie Hoare—continued.

1469. If you doubled your transactions you would not double your expenses?—We should not double our expenses or anything approaching it ; to double our transactions would mean at present an extra 100*l.* or 200*l.* a year except that we should give the staff a larger salary with an extension of our investments.

1470. Do you mean that very large banks could adopt your system, but that the smaller banks could not do so?—Yes ; but one great item of our cost is the number of our branches, which adds materially to our expenses.

Chairman.

1471. The number of branches of course adds immensely to the facilities of the public?—Yes ; and I may mention that these branches work in a number of very funny ways. People are very queer in their notions of saving. We often find that people have a branch open close to where they live, but they will not go there ; they come quite across London to deposit ; but still that branch has made them aware of the facilities, though they do not deposit there.

Mr. John Ellis.

1472. The liability to the depositors lies exclusively with the trustees, I suppose?—That is a very difficult question to answer. The trustees hold everything ; that is to say, that every penny that is deposited with us, the next morning, barring just the amount in the till, is paid to the trustees. We cannot touch it ; we have to go to the trustees for everything ; they are responsible for it entirely. The investment is done by the directors, of course, subject to the articles ; but technically speaking who is absolutely liable is a legal question I could not answer.

1473. In the interesting account that you have been giving the Committee, you have been describing the operation of a commercial concern whose paid-up capital is 50 per cent. practically of the subscribed capital?—Yes.

1474. There is an uncalled-up margin of about 12,000*l.*?—Yes.

1475. Therefore, under your limited principle, the only possible liability, other than that of the trustees, against the half million sterling would be 12,000*l.*?—Yes.

Chairman.

1476. Is there any liability upon the trustees if they are not shareholders?—I think not, except that they are liable for their own actions.

1477. So that the depositors have only their deposits to look to, and the 25,000*l.* capital?—That is so.

1478. Did you found this bank?—Yes.

1479. Have you had experience of any run?—We had last year a very tremendous run upon us, produced by a variety of circumstances which I need not refer to. It began upon a Wednesday evening. During the previous evening there had been a good many people coming, from certain statements that had been made, and upon the Wednesday evening somebody told me that there was a great crowd at the central bank. I went to see what it was, and I found a great number of people clamouring for their money. Owing to the remarks which I knew had been made, I had provided a certain extra margin

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Chairman—continued.

margin of cash, about 1,000 *l.*, I think, and I gave directions at once that all small sums should be paid, and I kept the bank open till about eleven. Then, when we had exhausted our cash, I tried to get some more from the Bank of England, but I could not do so that night. Next I addressed the crowd outside the bank, asking them to come in the morning at nine. I then arranged with the Bank of England to let me have 10,000 *l.* the next morning in notes and gold, and before nine o'clock I had that amount in hand at the bank. At nine o'clock we were besieged; there were I suppose hundreds of people, and about 20 policemen to keep order, and during that day I received from the Bank of England 40,000 *l.* in cash and notes. I gave directions that no deposits should be taken, but that the whole staff should pay every account that came in. I had about eight or ten clerks there; one, the chief one, was a young lady who acted as cashier at the head office during the day; she did all the paying. As they came into the bank in batches, we separated them into those who had 5 *l.* and over to receive, and those who had 5 *l.* and under to receive; those who had 5 *l.* and under to receive were paid without even a receipt, simply upon presenting the book; it was a little risky, but it was the only way of clearing the bank. Those who had 5 *l.* and over, had to go through the form of withdrawing in the ordinary way. We paid out during that day 1,622 persons in 12 hours, but towards the end it got a little slack. The amount withdrawn was just about 23,000 *l.*; and I may say, if I may explain how it was managed by this particular cashier, that although there were 1,622 accounts varying from a penny up to several hundred pounds, and it was all paid in cash, yet at the end of the day she was only 1 *s.* 2 *d.* short; 1 *s.* had rolled amongst the legs of the people and could not be picked up, and two stamps had blown away. All our branches were attacked in the same way, but we paid with ease, because we had nearly 400,000 *l.* in tangible securities at the Bank of England. We sold some of our tangible securities, upon which we made a large profit, because it so happened that the run occurred just after Mr. Goschen's conversion scheme had come out, and the sale was most profitable to us. We paid out in that month 92,000 *l.*, and the people were very angry and very annoyed, but a day or two after a great deal of the money poured in again; the very same notes came back, but very often to a smaller amount; many people who had saved up 5 *l.* or 6 *l.* put back 2 *l.* or 3 *l.*; the rest had gone in drink and other things; the public-houses round about did a roaring business that day. But the great good of the run was that it tested the completeness of the machinery; the staff worked with very great willingness, and we got over the run without any apparent difficulty, except this annoyance. One was very sorry to

Chairman—continued.

see the people withdraw their money in this way, but since we got over the panic this year our business has increased enormously. We have done this year 25 per cent. better in our net takings than we have ever done in any year of our existence; the amounts have come back from the same people. To show the difficulty of those persons drawing money we had some very funny instances. There was one man whose case amused me very much; he was a costermonger; he came up to the bank on that day with his donkey and cart to draw his money; he had about 120 *l.* in the bank, and he drew it out. He told me afterwards that he said, "I do not know what to do with this money. I have got my mate outside; so I said to him, 'What shall we do with it?' Then he said, 'I will tell you what we will do, we will put it into Coutts's,' so they drove this costermonger's barrow up to Coutts' bank. "I went in," he said, "I put my money on the counter, and they refused to take it." There were many instances of that sort which were very interesting; some people complained after the run, or upon the day of the run, that we would only pay them in gold. We paid them in notes as much as we could, but there was one lady who was very indignant; she wanted notes, and we gave the amount to her in gold. I said, "If you like to wait half an hour, you shall have it in notes." She said she could not wait; but at last she left it all behind, and did not withdraw at all.

1480. How long did the run last?—About four days.

1481. One result of your experience seems to show the mechanical difficulty of drawing money out?—Yes, the mechanical difficulty is very great. Doing it as fast as we could, for we tried to do it as fast as we could, to get rid of 1,700 depositors was as much as one could do in our premises. I do not say we could not have done more if we had been prepared for it; but it is a very difficult thing to do.

1482. That is rather a mechanical security to the bank, is it not; it tends to show that it is not possible to effect a run upon a bank easily?—It cuts two ways; nothing spreads like a panic; if people see a crowd outside, that is much more likely to hasten the panic than if they are paid quickly and go away; I believe that if on the Wednesday night, I could have managed to pay as fast as I did on the Thursday, I might have saved many from coming at all.

Mr. Barbour.

1483. Then the policy of a bank, under those circumstances, would be to pay rapidly?—Yes, to waive all ceremony, if it were a sound institution; if you have not got the money it is another matter.

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REVEREND ALEXANDER SHAW PAGE, M.A., called in ; and Examined.

Chairman.

1484. You are the Vicar of Selsley, near Stroud in Gloucestershire?—Yes.

1485. Since 1864 you have been manager, and since 14th January 1885, a trustee of the Provident Bank for Savings established at Cainscross in 1817?—Yes.

1486. Have you constantly attended as manager and as trustee?—Certainly twice every year, and very often once or twice more when sent for ; and I have attended meetings of the management committee for the last four years, since I have been a trustee.

1487. What days of the week is the bank open?—On Monday only, from half-past ten to one o'clock, and even then they go on with the business if anybody is in the waiting-room ; we do not turn anybody out till the business is done.

1488. You have a branch at Nailsworth?—Yes, open for one hour a week, from 12 to 1 on Mondays.

1489. What is the total number of your depositors?—1,943.

1490. And what is the amount of their deposits?—£. 61,000, in round numbers.

1491. Is it purely an agricultural district?—No ; it is largely manufacturing. We are in the middle of the West of England cloth district.

1492. Have some of the trustee savings banks in the district been closed?—Yes, at Tetbury and at Dursley. I have a letter from one of the Tetbury managers, Canon Golightly, the rural dean, giving me the reasons why. I asked him some questions, and I have his answers. "Why was the Tetbury Savings Bank closed?—(A.) Because we found that we could not carry it on, now that the rate of interest is reduced, without annual loss. (Q.) What was done with the surplus?—(A.) It will be applied to the payment of expenses attending the closing, and in compensating the officers ; the remainder will go to the National Debt Commissioners. (Q.) What was the feeling of depositors on the subject of closing?—(A.) They would have preferred to have kept it on. (Q.) Did most of them transfer to the Post Office savings bank?—Yes, 95 per cent. (Q.) What was done with the buildings (if any)?—(A.) They will be sold. (Q.) Had you any difficulty in getting trustees or managers?—(A.) None." And virtually I had the same answer from Dursley ; the secretary told me that he proposed the closing.

1493. Have the depositors been paid off without any loss?—Yes, in both places ; they sold the buildings and handed the surplus over to the National Debt Commissioners.

1494. Was there any difficulty in either of those cases in getting trustees to act?—No, they told me, in neither case.

1495. Have you found in your own case any difficulty in getting trustees?—None at all. I have here the list of our trustees and their professions ; they include solicitors, clergymen, and so on.

1496. Will you describe what is the course of business followed in your bank in the case of a deposit?—The person comes in, say a new

Chairman—continued.

depositor ; he comes to the counter where the actuary is, and says, "I wish to deposit, say 3*l.* ;" if it is a first deposit, he will sign the declaration saying that he has no money in any other savings bank. The actuary then enters it in his day-book, "received 3*l.*," and takes the pass-book to the ledger, compares the two, and then enters it into the ledger and in the pass-book, and then reads out to the manager on duty, "No. 10,240, received 3*l.*" Then the manager goes to the ledger ; the pass-book is left on the ledger, compares the two, ticks the ledger to show that he has seen it, takes the pass-book to his desk upon which his day-book is, ruled like the actuary's day-book, and under the head "received" puts "3*l.*" If it is a new account he puts an "0" against it, for "open." At the end of business the actuary and the manager add up their day-books and compare them. From this total the weekly return to the Commissioners of the National Debt is made up.

1497. Has there been any difficulty in getting the attendance of managers?—Never ; perhaps once or twice they might have sent for me in a case of sudden sickness, because I happened to live the nearest.

1498. Is there a roster?—Yes.

1499. Does one manager attend for the whole day?—Yes ; we take two Mondays in a month ; if there happened to be three, the youngest takes the third ; they are all in this list in order straight up to January 1890.

1500. You carry that out with great strictness?—Yes, we never do any business without having a manager and actuary or manager and auditor present, and in case of sickness I have known the actuary be absent, and the auditor doing his work for him. I recollect that once being so. I wrote to one of the leading managers at Nailsworth, and asked him to be good enough to tell me whether they carried that out equally strictly there, and he says that they do, that they are very particular always to have a manager present with the clerk, as we call him there.

1501. Were the Dursley and Tetbury banks larger or smaller than your own?—Very much smaller. Dursley had 32,797*l.*, Tetbury 28,936*l.*

1502. Have you found any difficulty in paying your way?—At present we have a management fund of 135*l.* in hand, the surplus from past years ; besides that the Commissioners have in hand a surplus of 780*l.*, which were the profits of past years, but the management fund we have kept under our own authority ; at present our expenses are a little exceeding our receipts, and we are drawing at the rate of 10*l.* or 12*l.* a year upon this 135*l.*, so that it would last, at that rate for another 10 years, without drawing upon the 780*l.* which the National Debt Commissioners have got, and which they have allowed us to use in the case of certain repairs to the building. When we bought safes some three or four years ago, and very good safes they are, they allowed us to pay for them out of that fund.

1503. Did you build your premises?—They were built for us in 1843 upon a lease for 999 years.

1504. I

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Chairman—continued.

1504. In whom are they vested?—I believe the trustees of the savings bank are the holders of the property.

1505. What is the rate of interest you allow?—Two and a-half per cent.

1506. Have you reduced it?—We have reduced it, we were giving 2*l.* 15*s.* till last November, we have now reduced it to 2*l.* 10*s.*

1507. Have your depositors increased or have they remained about stationary?—They are gradually decreasing, but I think thrift has not decreased in the neighbourhood. I have made a calculation that I know of 9,000 people in the neighbourhood who have savings one way or another; there is a very good benefit society founded by Mr. Holloway, our Member, in which he has got 3,700 members, and there are two imitations of that with nearly 1,000 members, and other benefit societies, and two large building societies, so that out of our population of 40,000 there are at least 10,000 having savings of their own, and I have reason to believe that in my parish of 170 houses there are 66 people at least who have savings.

1508. Are there Post Office savings banks in your neighbourhood?—Yes, in the old borough of Stroud, in our neighbourhood, there are several.

1509. You do not know what their deposits are?—No, I do not.

1510. Do you consider that your savings bank is holding its own against the Post Office?—Yes, it is holding its own, I think.

1511. Can you give any reasons for that?—One is, that the people are used to it, and country people are very conservative, and it has been fortunate in having a manager like the Vicar of Cainscross, who is a wrangler and a very good man of business, and there are Mr. Beard and other gentlemen, in the neighbourhood, who have taken a great interest in the matter; the late Mr. Croome, a solicitor, whose office is 100 yards from it, was always ready with advice and an opinion free, and the auditor, Mr. J. H. Carpenter, whose father founded the bank, has been very active in looking after the interest of the bank; those gentlemen have all fostered the bank. Mr. Beard tells me that he has brought between 30 and 40 depositors to the bank, and I have seen the Vicar of Cainscross pay in sums of money himself; he cannot, of course, draw the money out, but he brings it for deposit with the treasurer. Then they know the actuary and managers; they find in them friends and advisers as to money affairs. They have a convenient waiting-room where they wait till their turn, and there is a woman in attendance. Last week when I was at the bank I asked a young woman, an elementary school teacher, why she came there, passing the post office, and she said, "Why you give me compound interest calculated half-yearly, whilst at the Post Office it is only calculated yearly"; we also give interest on every five shillings, and on fractions of a pound, whereas the Post Office only give interest on whole pounds. The managers are superior in social position to most of the depositors, so the depositors do not mind their knowing their affairs. We have no large employers of labour; they cannot be trustees or managers under the Act of Parliament, I think; but we have none; they are

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Chairman—continued.

mostly professional men, solicitors, clergymen, one doctor, a few esquires, and gentlemen living on their means. Then there is no sending the book by post. If you send your Post Office savings bank book by post everybody knows it, and then if you have a receipt for the money deposited everybody knows it. Poor people like secrecy.

1512. You think they dislike the publicity of the Post Office savings bank?—Yes.

1513. On the other hand the Post Office gives them the opportunity of depositing on any day of the week?—It is a convenience, undoubtedly. I have one account, our school penny bank, at the Post Office savings bank, because the Post Office provides penny bank-books for the children.

1514. Your bank is only open, is it, for three hours a week?—That is all. I fully agree with Mr. Newton in his answers to Questions 1696 to 1698, as to the secrecy; and then again we can pay on the spot, whereas in the Post Office savings bank you have to send to London for your money. The treasurer, who is manager of the county of Gloucester Bank at Stroud, has about 600*l.* in his hands: the actuary has about 60*l.* to 100*l.* in his hands, and the clerk has in reserve about 30*l.*

1515. What do you pay your officers?—The actuary gets 80*l.* a year; the auditor gets 40*l.*, and the clerk, at Nailsworth, gets 17*l.* 10*s.* I think 2*l.* 10*s.* is the rent for the use of his room. Then they all of them give security in 500*l.* each.

1516. Do you know what the plan of the audit is; how it is carried out?—The auditor has given it to me very fully. The weekly returns of all moneys received and paid, signed by the managers in attendance, are sent to the auditor, with the bank book, kept by the actuary. This book contains a statement (weekly) of our funds in the treasurer's hands, with an account of cash sent and cheques drawn. This book is examined with the weekly returns by the auditor, and transmitted to the treasurer for his examination. The weekly returns are then sent to the National Debt Office. It is, therefore, one continuous audit week after week. In addition to this, the auditor compares with the day-book of the savings bank another pass-book, kept, you will observe, not by the actuary but by the treasurer, containing dates and amounts of all cash received and paid by him, with the balance in his hands. Every several item is carefully ticked off, after comparison with our day-book. The quarterly minute-book he also examines diligently, comparing all sums therein with the amounts received and paid weekly, as certified by the managers in attendance. Every six months the auditor goes through the depositors' ledgers, and checks the accuracy of interest added, and all calculations of the actuary, placing his initials, if correct, to them. Every 20th of November, the annual balance sheet, the general ledger, day-book, minute-book, and all statements to be transmitted to National Debt Office are examined, with the extracted list of moneys standing to depositors' credit, compared with the ledgers. Those books are brought before us at our quarterly meetings. Then I asked the auditor, "Why is there

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Chairman—continued.

there an annual deficit of from 6 *l.* to 10 *l.*," to which he replied, "Because the capital of the bank is less by a few thousand pounds than it was a few years ago, therefore we receive less interest from the Government. If the auditor had received 30 *l.* per annum instead of 40 *l.* there would have been no deficit. When the 133 *l.* from management fund has been exhausted (but we think it will last 10 years at least), he, the auditor, will still think himself well paid at 30 *l.* per annum. Expenses may be also reduced in other directions.

Mr. Bartley.

1517. The auditor does not do anything in the way of comparing the pass-books with the ledger?—No; we do that every time, and since I have had the notice from the association of savings banks I have tried to enforce that in some degree. We printed this notice, which we had stuck at the beginning of the books, directing the particular attention of the depositors to the existence of the rule that every depositor shall, three times in every year at least, cause his deposit book to be produced at the office of this bank for the purpose of being examined and compared with the ledger. Then we did not like quite to say, "You shall bring it." We thought it would have created a panic, as some one said in the evidence which has been given before you, but we have instituted this new rule, that when the manager has this book in his hand for the first time after the 20th November or the 20th May, he is to look at the total in the ledger and the total in this book, and to write his name against the total as well as against the day's transactions, and we write ours, so that we keep up a perpetual audit of the balance. I asked the actuary whether the extracted list had ever been asked for by any depositor. Under the Act of Parliament an extracted list has to be kept, and he said that only once had a depositor asked for it; in fact, they would hardly understand it; it would only be an extracted list of what had appeared upon the 20th of November and the 20th of May, and if the parties had done any business since it would not be the same; but still the list is there; we obey the Act.

Chairman.

1518. Is there any other point that you wish to mention to the Committee?—Sir John Dorington has mentioned to me that the Scotch banks are willing to pay towards the inspector's expense. I think it would be a very good plan to have an inspector coming and making, as we say in regard to our schools, visits with notice and visits without notice; that he should come upon a certain day and see how we do our work, and that he should come upon another day and see how the audit is. It would be well, I am sure, to have that system, because it would save us trustees from any responsibility.

1519. It might be paid for to some extent out of the reduced salaries of the auditor?—Yes.

1520. Do your committee attend fairly?—Yes, our committee attend very well; there is a quorum, and I see that in 1888 at the four meet-

Chairman—continued.

ings, the attendances were seven, five, five, and six.

1521. Then I gather from you that the general effect of your views is that you consider there is quite room for these savings books side by side with the Post Office savings bank?—Yes.

1522. That they supply a convenience to the public?—Yes.

1523. And the trustees are perfectly willing to give their services gratuitously for the purpose of keeping it going, and looking after it?—Yes.

1524. You have found no difficulty in that respect?—No.

1525. Do they intend to carry it on as long as they can pay their way?—Yes. Then I should like to mention that some years ago the late actuary went away without any notice, and we were left without an actuary. Mr. Sturge our present actuary was out of employment, and he acted till he was appointed. When he came to look into the books they were quite right; not a penny was wrong; but we had our books sent back from the National Debt Commissioners because the actuary had not had time to do the last table, that is to say, the number of depositors whose balances were above and below 5 *l.*, &c.

1526. I gather from you that the two neighbouring trustee savings banks came to an end simply because of the difficulty in paying their way?—Yes, quite so.

1527. Otherwise they would have continued?—Yes. Four of the Tetbury depositors have transferred their accounts to our bank, three to Nailsworth, and one to Cainscross.

1528. Ninety-five per cent. of the depositors went to the Post Office savings bank?—Yes.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

1529. Do you think that if your bank were shut up it would retard the progress of thrift in your district?—I think so in some degree.

1530. You think it would be a misfortune to shut it up?—Yes.

1531. You think these trustees savings banks have more power with certain classes than the Post Office savings bank?—I think so.

1532. You believe in personal influence?—Yes, we are able to give advice to the people very often.

1533. That could not happen in the case of the Post Office savings bank?—No, I think not; they have no time.

1534. You, as a clergyman in the district, would regret to see anything done to endanger these trustee savings banks?—Yes.

Mr. James Campbell.

1535. You mentioned that your bank was only open on Monday for three hours?—Yes.

1536. Has there been no demand to have it open oftener?—I proposed it at the annual meeting two years ago; and it was discussed, but the difficulty was to get managers who would come in on the Saturday evening; they are most of them professional men; Saturday is the lawyer's holiday,

16 May 1889.]

Rev. A. S. PAGE, M.A.

[Continued.]

Mr. James Campbell—continued.

holiday, and we felt we could not get the managers to come on Saturday evening, which would have been the time for the working people to have found it open. Again, it would have cost more money: we should have had to pay the actuary more and the woman in attendance, so it was dropped. I put a notice in the newspaper; I asked for information as to the general feeling and for replies, but the public did not take it up.

1537. If there was a popular demand for greater facilities, do you think the demand might be met?—It might be met.

Mr. WILLIAM FRANCIS BRAKE EYRE, Assistant Secretary of the Hull Savings Bank, called in; and Examined.

Mr. Bartley.

1541. I BELIEVE there has been a meeting of the Trustee Savings Bank Association, and the object of the meeting was that arrangements should be made to ensure the better management of trustee savings banks throughout the country?—There has been a meeting; it was the annual general meeting, and this business would have been thoroughly discussed and dealt with, but notice would have to be given in the ordinary course so that the matter was only partly dealt with. The proceedings that were carried out were to this effect: "A resolution was passed approving of the general principles of the scheme, as submitted by Mr. Meikle to this Committee in giving his evidence the other day. The matter is referred to the Council of the Association to consider and report to the members of the association, and to be afterwards dealt with at a general meeting to be summoned for the purpose."

1542. What amount of representation was there at the meeting?—I can hardly tell the exact amount of representation at the meeting, but it was a fairly large meeting representing 20 millions of money.

1543. That is to say, of banks which represented 20 millions of money?—I could hardly say that, but the association itself represents 20 millions of money.

1544. Do you think the association itself, from your knowledge, representing about that amount, would be willing to enter into any reasonable arrangement for securing the thoroughly efficient management of the trustee savings banks?—I am quite of that opinion.

1545. Do you think they would enter into any scheme which this Committee or any committee that they trusted would frame for the better management of those institutions?—I believe so, provided it could be shown to be practicable.

1546. Provided it could be shown to be thoroughly efficient?—Yes, and practicable.

1547. Do you think that if money were wanted for the purpose of carrying that out they would be willing to supply it?—I am of opinion they would be quite willing to do so.

1548. Do you think they would raise no objection?
0.71.

Mr. James Campbell—continued.

1538. The premises belong to the bank, I think you said?—Yes.

1539. What use is made of the premises on other days of the week?—None at all; the woman in attendance has rooms in the house.

1540. There appears to be a loss in respect of the premises which are not used?—The books are all kept there in safes, and it would be dirtying the rooms and wearing them out; they are in very good repair after 40 years' use.

Mr. Bartley—continued.

tion that any reasonable amount of money should be supplied for the purpose?—I think not, provided the trustees' position was not interfered with. The trustees will not take further responsibility.

1549. The object being to render it practically impossible for frauds or any misfortunes to happen to any trustee savings bank?—That is their idea; they have only one desire, namely, to secure the greatest possible accuracy and efficiency in the interests of depositors and trustees alike.

1550. Because the result of any fraud or accident of that kind injures the banks generally, as well as the individual bank itself which is affected?—I am confident that it does.

1551. Did they propose to send any resolution to the Committee?—Yes, a copy of the resolution, approving the principles of Mr. Meikle's scheme, signed by the chairman of to-day's meeting, will be duly forwarded to this Committee. It will be for the Council to consider and report on the suggestions made by Mr. Meikle; after that it will be considered by the general body of members of the association, and the outcome of that will, no doubt, also be forwarded to this Committee.

Chairman.

1552. How many banks are represented in your association?—I can hardly tell you that; I think that was spoken to in the evidence given by Mr. Andrews.

1553. You told me that it represented deposits of 20,000,000 £.?—Yes, about one-half of the total deposits of the trustee banks.

1554. Should you say they represented in numbers about half?—No, about fifty of the principal banks in the kingdom.

1555. Do you think there would be any difficulty in getting those banks to associate themselves together for the purpose of a common inspection?—A difficulty might arise with some of the smaller banks upon this point, but we feel the necessity for inspection, and wish for powers to enforce it.

1556. I presume you meant by the "better system

16 May 1889.]

Mr. EYRE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

system of administration" to which the honourable Member referred, some system of inspection?—Yes; we are agreed that the Act of 1863, if properly and efficiently carried out, is sufficient for the purpose; but, unfortunately, there is no moving power which can enforce its being carried out in its entirety; if anything can be done that will increase or give the power to some body representative of the trustees and actuaries of trustee banks, say like our association, to enforce the carrying out of the Act, then we

Chairman—continued.

think that the banks will become absolutely efficient, and that there will be no cause for any complaint.

Mr. Bartley.

1557. Your association wish to assist in carrying that out?—They wish to do everything they possibly can to increase the trustworthiness and standing of the banks they represent. I feel sure the association will be only too pleased to assist the Committee in this direction.

A P P E N D I X.

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A P P E N D I X.

Appendix, No. 1.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *W. Taylor*, 8th April 1889.

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS FUND.

Year ended 30th November.	Income of the Year from Interest.			Interest allowed to Savings Banks.			Interest allowed to Savings Banks in Excess of Income.			Income of the Year in Excess of Interest allowed.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1876 - - -	1,303,125	9	7	1,380,165	13	-	77,040	3	5	-	-	-
1877 - - -	1,336,074	18	3	1,413,477	5	9	77,402	7	6	-	-	-
1878 - - -	1,354,106	17	4	1,427,961	10	11	73,854	18	7	-	-	-
1879 - - -	1,338,741	19	4	1,411,256	14	11	72,514	15	7	-	-	-
1880 - - -	1,342,650	16	7	1,410,393	16	11	67,743	-	4	-	-	-
1881 - - -	1,349,740	19	11	1,307,593	5	2	-	-	-	42,147	14	9
1882 - - -	1,351,340	8	11	1,319,023	11	3	-	-	-	32,316	17	8
1883 - - -	1,343,007	6	6	1,380,797	6	1	-	-	-	12,210	-	5
1884 - - -	1,348,211	11	11	1,351,292	17	0	3,081	5	7	-	-	-
1885 - - -	1,366,758	6	11	1,371,533	-	-	4,774	13	1	-	-	-
1886 - - -	1,385,472	8	3	1,389,212	12	10	3,740	4	7	-	-	-
1887 - - -	1,386,586	1	5	1,400,332	12	1	13,746	10	8	-	-	-
1888 (Estimate) -	1,377,736	-	3	1,403,501	4	11	25,765	4	8	-	-	-

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS FUND.

Year ended 31st December.	Income of the Year from Interest.			Interest allowed to Depositors, and Expenses of Management.			Income of the Year in Excess.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1876 - - -	908,441	12	-	775,515	11	1	132,926	-	11
1877 - - -	968,504	2	1	813,644	6	4	154,859	15	9
1878 - - -	1,015,593	11	1	933,711	17	4	81,881	13	9
1879 - - -	1,067,858	14	10	935,916	7	7	131,942	7	3
1880 - - -	1,119,381	2	1	966,876	13	9	152,504	8	4
1881 - - -	1,181,037	2	7	1,027,563	19	4	153,473	3	3
1882 - - -	1,242,902	2	-	1,113,282	1	11	129,620	-	1
1883 - - -	1,302,902	4	1	1,204,171	2	11	98,731	1	2
1884 - - -	1,371,672	5	-	1,273,734	16	2	97,937	8	10
1885 - - -	1,416,523	2	2	1,348,513	17	-	68,009	5	2
1886 - - -	1,530,673	19	11	1,460,143	18	8	70,528	1	3
1887 - - -	1,615,445	3	9	1,532,402	1	11	82,953	1	10
1888 (Estimate) -	1,736,138	9	-	1,663,900	-	-	72,238	9	-

Appendix, No. 2.

PAPER handed in by Mr. W. Taylor, 8th April 1889.

THE NATIONAL DEBT COMMISSIONERS in Account with the TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS.

Year ending 20th November.	Amount Received from Trustees in the Year.	Gross Amount Paid to Trustees in the Year.	Excess Paid to Trustees in the Year.	Interest Credited to Trustees in the Year.	Net INCREASE (+) or DECREASE (—) in Balance due to Trustees.	Balance due to Trustees at the close of each Year.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1861 - - -	666,579	1,701,312	1,034,733	1,332,038	+ 297,305	41,790,783
1862 - - -	461,281	2,758,351	2,297,070	1,315,864	— 981,206	40,809,578
1863 - - -	737,923	1,619,283	881,365	1,309,720	+ 428,365	41,237,932
1864 - - -	486,820	3,183,918	2,697,098	1,285,588	— 1,411,510	39,826,422
1865 - - -	452,430	2,497,010	2,044,680	1,255,266	— 789,314	39,037,108
1866 - - -	278,588	3,855,148	3,576,560	1,206,584	— 2,369,976	36,667,133
1867 - - -	684,262	1,724,958	1,040,696	1,166,475	+ 125,779	36,792,112
1868 - - -	864,607	1,655,485	790,878	1,175,761	+ 384,883	37,177,794
1869 - - -	907,278	1,424,723	517,445	1,199,008	+ 681,563	37,859,357
1870 - - -	713,594	1,529,868	816,274	1,215,615	+ 399,341	38,258,698
1871 - - -	877,480	1,247,309	369,829	1,234,443	+ 864,614	39,123,312
1872 - - -	1,044,811	1,427,711	382,900	1,260,050	+ 877,150	40,000,462
1873 - - -	858,349	1,313,169	454,820	1,289,213	+ 834,393	40,834,856
1874 - - -	1,018,675	1,344,222	325,547	1,317,129	+ 991,582	41,826,438
1875 - - -	926,901	1,335,018	408,027	1,347,613	+ 939,586	42,766,024
1876 - - -	984,208	1,469,605	485,397	1,380,166	+ 894,769	43,660,793
1877 - - -	874,287	1,330,402	456,115	1,413,477	+ 957,362	44,618,155
1878 - - -	473,811	1,852,575	1,378,764	1,427,961	+ 49,197	44,667,352
1879 - - -	399,929	2,286,522	1,886,593	1,411,257	— 475,336	44,192,016
1880 - - -	650,040	1,882,117	1,232,077	1,410,394	+ 178,317	44,370,333
1881 - - -	767,412	1,909,111	1,141,699	1,307,593	+ 165,894	44,536,227
1882 - - -	933,678	1,759,573	825,895	1,319,024	+ 493,129	45,029,356
1883 - - -	929,455	1,886,039	956,584	1,330,797	+ 374,213	45,403,569
1884 - - -	1,187,253	1,678,620	491,367	1,351,293	+ 859,926	46,263,495
1885 - - -	1,027,523	1,867,861	840,328	1,371,533	+ 531,205	46,794,700
1886 - - -	1,242,199	2,159,114	916,915	1,389,213	+ 472,298	47,266,998
1887 - - -	1,040,417	1,991,266	950,849	1,400,333	+ 449,484	47,716,482
1888 - - -	1,089,512	3,299,176	2,209,664	1,403,501	— 806,163	46,910,319

Appendix, No. 3.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *W. Taylor*, 11th April 1889.

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS CLOSED in Year ending 20th NOVEMBER 1888.

BANK.	Balances Due to Depositors at 20th November 1887.			Portion of Balance Transferred to POST OFFICE.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Bristol - - - - -	577,477	10	5	511,963	13	10
Camden Town - - - - -	5,698	12	10	1,005	14	7
Castle Hedingham - - - - -	11,135	4	2	10,149	15	8
Eccleshall - - - - -	2,526	14	3	1,306	10	9
Farringdon Street - - - - -	60,297	13	9	42,260	1	3
Hawkhurst - - - - -	85	-	5	24	1	1
Hereford - - - - -	191,872	6	4	90,741	8	7
Hyde - - - - -	24,793	12	4	18,656	1	2
Loughborough - - - - -	41,333	2	7	36,954	-	1
Marlow - - - - -	4,576	8	-	2,230	16	7
Newport, Monmouth - - - - -	36,969	3	3	31,888	13	10
Newry - - - - -	56,783	5	2	39,034	19	3
St. James's, Piccadilly - - - - -	27,613	5	6	6,224	17	1
Sevenoaks - - - - -	27,051	17	11	25,423	7	2
Shipton-on-Stour - - - - -	28,145	17	3	23,909	9	8
Stafford - - - - -	32,255	7	3	15,869	13	9
Swaffham - - - - -	24,276	7	4	22,769	10	-
West Malling - - - - -	13,251	12	5	10,014	7	5
TOTAL - - - £.	1,166,143	1	2	890,427	1	9

Appendix, No. 4.

PAPER handed in by Mr. W. Taylor, 11th April 1889.

20th NOVEMBER 1887.

SUMMARY OF SECURITIES held by TRUSTEES of SAVINGS BANKS under Section 16 of Act 26 & 27 Vict. c. 87.

BANK.	Three per Cent. Consols.	CORPORATIONS. — Bonds, Stock, and Loans.	Loans to Local, School, and Burial Boards, &c.	Police, Gas, Water, and River Commissioners. — Mortgages, Stock, and Loans.	County Bonds.	Mortgages on Property.	Heritable Bonds.	Railway, Dock, &c., Debt Stocks and Bonds.	Deposit Receipts, Scotch Banks.	Uninvested Balances.	Reserve Fund.	TOTAL.
Bradford	£. —	£. 136,978	£. 292,382	£. —	£. —	£. 231,266	£. —	£. —	£. —	£. 25,787	£. 26,534	£. 711,947
Dundee	—	94,500	1,200	219,000	—	—	—	—	27,000	1,205	—	842,905
Exeter	77,345	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,224	—	80,571
Glasgow	—	110,065	348,780	23,000	—	—	—	—	—	18,137	—	499,982
Leeds	—	133,478	130,621	—	27,545	1,265	—	166,342	—	7,906	5,453	472,612
Liverpool	—	174,200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	174,206
Manchester	—	355,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,989	—	356,969
Preston	—	196,198	—	—	161,885	—	—	1,128	—	8,052	—	307,268
Winchester	—	29,707	2,687	8,870	—	—	—	—	—	1,188	597	42,844
Brighouse	—	17,300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,222	—	19,522
Coventry	—	18,092	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49	—	18,141
Huddersfield	—	103,881	7,691	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,504	—	113,026
Kingston-on-Hull	—	104,446	75,886	40,177	—	—	—	26,620	—	4,871	—	263,000
Leicester	—	85,487	6,225	—	—	—	—	4,640	—	2,082	—	98,434
Perth	—	95,000	—	50,000	—	—	253,413	10,000	63,426	—	—	477,389
St. Marylebone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	15
Sheffield	—	30,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30,000
Stockton	—	—	—	2,500	—	—	—	—	—	587	—	3,087
£.	77,345	1,684,282	865,472	849,347	189,430	232,531	253,413	208,730	90,426	78,751	31,586	4,061,313

Appendix, No. 5.

PAPER handed in by Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, K.C.M.G., C.B., 9 May 1889.

LIST of such TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS in the UNITED KINGDOM as, under the Provisions of the Act 26 Vict. c. 14, or otherwise, have been Closed, and have transferred their FUNDS, or any part thereof, to the POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK; showing the Amount so transferred where Assistance was given by the Post Office, and where Assistance was not given by the Post Office, respectively, for the Years 1887 and 1888.

1887.

NAME OF BANK.	County.	Amount due to Depositors at the commencement of the Closing.	Amount transferred to Post Office Savings Bank		Proportion transferred to Post Office Savings Bank	
			At Offices where Assistance was given by the Post Office.	At Offices where no Assistance was given by the Post Office.	At Offices where Assistance was given by the Post Office.	At Offices where no Assistance was given by the Post Office.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	Percentage.	Percentage.
Barking - - -	Essex - - -	13,084 14 2	—	4,755 10 1	—	36·34
Bishop Stortford - - -	Herts - - -	3,900 - -	2,740 - -	—	70·23	—
Roths - - -	Elgin - - -	666 14 8	—	467 6 8	—	67·00
Wexford - - -	Wexford - - -	7,288 4 10	—	15 15 5	—	0·21
TOTAL - - - £.		24,969 13 8	2,740 - -	5,238 12 2	70·23	24·86

1888.

		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	Percentage.	Percentage.
Brentford - - -	Middlesex - - -	17,265 17 7	15,131 6 3	—	87·63	—
Bristol - - -	Gloucester - - -	572,122 - -	530,375 - -	—	92·70	—
Camden Town - - -	Middlesex - - -	5,698 12 10	—	1,005 14 7	—	17·65
Castle Hedingham - - -	Essex - - -	10,555 - -	10,467 - -	—	99·16	—
Dursley - - -	Gloucester - - -	25,100 - -	24,420 - -	—	97·30	—
Reclishall - - -	Stafford - - -	2,526 14 3	—	1,306 10 9	—	51·72
Great Marlow - - -	Bucks - - -	4,576 8 -	—	2,230 16 7	—	48·75
Guisborough - - -	York - - -	11,004 4 1	—	7,957 4 6	—	60·84
Harewood - - -	York - - -	9,558 - -	6,018 - -	—	72·38	—
Hereford - - -	Hereford - - -	135,773 1 6	96,832 - 4	—	71·32	—
Hyde - - -	Cheshire - - -	22,905 - -	19,758 - -	—	86·26	—
Knarsborough - - -	York - - -	72,982 - -	52,428 - -	—	71·83	—
Loughborough - - -	Leicester - - -	40,061 - -	37,833 - -	—	94·43	—
Malmesbury - - -	Wilts - - -	6,976 - -	5,944 - 9	—	85·20	—
Newport, Mon. - - -	Monmouth - - -	33,149 - -	31,886 - -	—	96·19	—
Newry - - -	Down - - -	45,000 - -	41,093 - -	—	91·32	—
North Walsham - - -	Norfolk - - -	37,061 18 7	—	62 18 4	—	0·17
St. James' - - -	Middlesex - - -	27,613 5 6	—	6,225 17 1	—	22·54
Sevenoaks - - -	Kent - - -	27,707 19 1	25,909 6 4	—	93·72	—
Shipston-on-Stour - - -	Worcester - - -	25,866 6 4	24,139 - 9	—	93·32	—
Stafford - - -	Stafford - - -	32,255 7 3	—	16,004 4 4	—	51·47
Stokeley - - -	York - - -	14,836 - -	9,912 6 1	—	66·81	—
Swaffham - - -	Norfolk - - -	24,065 - -	23,524 - -	—	97·75	—
Tenby - - -	Pembroke - - -	13,036 1 5	—	3,718 11 1	—	28·52
West London - - -	Middlesex - - -	51,724 - -	42,463 - -	—	82·09	—
West Malling - - -	Kent - - -	11,768 - -	10,370 11 -	—	88·12	—
Whitby - - -	York - - -	19,976 - -	17,046 - -	—	85·33	—
TOTAL - - - £.		1,302,063 16 5	1,026,509 11 6	39,111 17 3	87·93	29·04

General Post Office, }
25 April 1889. }

James J. Cardin,
Receiver and Accountant General

Appendix, No. 6.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *William Rayment*.

LETTER from the Secretary to the Savings Bank, Hull, to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt.

(Trustee Savings Banks.)

Gentlemen,

Savings Bank, Hull, 4 May 1886.

THE defalcations at the Cardiff Savings Bank have naturally set thinking all who are interested in the prosperity of the trustee banks, and are anxious for the welfare of the depositors.

The Acts of Parliament which provide for the working of our banks contain provisions which, if strictly adhered to, would make it quite impossible that fraud of any magnitude would go long undetected.

I am of opinion that a frequent comparison of the depositors' pass-books with the ledgers is the most effective means by which the end in question may be attained. I therefore beg respectfully to suggest that your Department should require annually from the auditors a return showing the number of pass-books which they have compared during the year, and what discrepancies, with particulars of their nature, if this be thought desirable, they have discovered. The adoption of such a system by your Department would prevent this most important work being neglected, and would, I think, reduce the risk of fraud to a minimum. It would then only be possible that a robbery, like that recently revealed at Cardiff, could happen if there were collusion between the staff and the auditor.

In all well-regulated banks the information referred to is now supplied to the trustees and managers, and if such a return as is herein suggested were periodically made to the Commissioners, and published along with other returns in the year book, it would naturally make the auditors of all banks more careful and diligent in the discharge of what I take to be one of their most important duties, and would also afford those interested an opportunity of ascertaining from an official source that this essential point was being carried out systematically and persistently.

Respectfully commending this matter to your earnest consideration,

The Commissioners for the
Reduction of the National Debt,
London.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Francis Fullerton*,
Secretary.

LETTER from the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to the Trustees of the Savings Bank, Kingston-on-Hull.

(No. 2016.)

Gentlemen,

National Debt Office, 8 May 1886.

WITH reference to a letter dated the 4th instant, received from Mr. Fullerton, the secretary of the savings bank under your management, I have to acquaint you that the Legislature has provided such checks against fraud and mismanagement as it deemed expedient, and the Commissioners have no authority to require the certificate of the auditor as to his examination of pass-books, which, unless by far the greater part of the books were sent in periodically (almost the entire number, indeed), would not show that no frauds had been committed by an officer of the savings bank, because he would naturally confine his fraudulent operations to such accounts as were not likely to be produced. It certainly did not prevent fraud by the officer of the Hillsborough Savings Bank, from which, being in Ireland, the law required such a certificate as is now suggested.

The Commissioners concur in the view taken by Mr. Fullerton, that if the trustees and managers do their duty (which is voluntarily undertaken by them in the interests of their poorer neighbours), and strictly comply with the Acts of Parliament, instead of trusting to their paid officers alone, as probably many of them do, frauds by the latter would be more difficult.

The trustees and managers, however, must be aware that if they do neglect their duties, and omit to comply in every respect with the Acts of Parliament, they are responsible to make good any default in the funds entrusted to their management, in the same way as any other trustees of property are liable for neglect.

At the same it is to be remembered that every depositor in a savings bank may obtain the direct security of the State by transferring his account to the Post Office Savings Bank, and therefore, if he prefers to deposit in a trustee savings bank, he does it at his own risk, trusting to his confidence in the trustees and managers.

The Trustees,
Savings Bank, Kingston-on-Hull.

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. Rivers Wilson*.

LETTER from the Secretary to the Savings Bank, Hull, to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt.

(No. 2016.)

Gentlemen,

Savings Bank, Hull, 11 May 1886.

I AM favoured with yours of the 8th instant, addressed to the trustees in reply to my letter of the 4th instant.

As you are good enough to point out, the Legislature requires certain returns from our banks, and has provided checks against fraud and mismanagement, and it may therefore, I conclude, be assumed that it undertakes, in some measure at least, the responsibility of seeing that the provisions of the Acts of Parliament which have been passed for the guidance of our managers and directors are carried out.

Such being the case, is it not desirable that the returns furnished shall, in the interests of the public, be as complete as possible, and that they shall put your Department in possession of information which shall render fraud difficult? My conviction, based on an experience extending over many years, is that a thorough and systematic checking of the pass-books by the auditors would prevent any extensive and systematic frauds.

Of course minor frauds would always be possible unless every pass-book were periodically compared with the ledger account, but my contention is, that with a proper and efficient checking no defalcations could arise which would not be more than covered by the bonds of guarantee furnished by any official.

If your Department has no authority for requiring our auditors to make a return of the number of pass-books examined, would it not be well to apply to the Legislature for the necessary authority? I am strongly of opinion that it would; and, if it cannot be obtained in any other way, the matter will doubtless be taken up by the Trustee Savings Banks Association, and by its means the question can be brought under the notice of the M.P.'s of the towns interested. If, however, it could be managed without such a cumbrous mode of procedure, I think it would be better. Why, may I ask, should such a return as I suggested be required from the Irish banks, and not from those situated in other parts of the United Kingdom. With reference to your remarks as to the liability of trustees and managers, will you allow me to point out the desirability of reducing this liability to the smallest possible limit? The gentlemen composing our boards give much time and trouble to the discharge of their duties, and this without any fee or reward whatever, but simply with a desire to benefit their poorer neighbours.

They have in the past, and undoubtedly do still, contribute in no small degree to the prosperity of the nation, and it is obviously unfair that any risk should be imposed upon them which can be avoided.

Depositors could, as you say, obtain the direct security of the State by transferring their accounts to the Post Office banks, but these banks, although admirably adapted for rural districts, cannot give the ready service which the masses require in cities and large towns.

Wherever adequate facilities are granted, the trustee banks are greatly preferred to the Post Office, and they readily command a large business. This is proved in the case of our own bank, by the fact that during the past 10 years 8,925 £ has been transferred from the Post Office to us, whilst we have only transferred 515 £ to the Post Office, and during that period the total funds of the Hull Savings Bank have increased by upwards of 300,000 £. Undoubtedly each fills its special mission, and the one need in no way interfere with the other, but it is desirable that both should be made as safe and efficient as possible. My only object in writing you on this question is to try to make the trustee banks, with which I am proud to be connected, fulfil both these conditions.

If you could in any way help to bring about the end I have in view, I am convinced that you would not only be increasing the usefulness of your Department, but would merit and receive the thanks of the many thousand gentlemen whom you would be assisting in rendering their work more efficient, and therefore more satisfactory, not only to themselves but to their very large body of depositors.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Francis Fullerton.*

The Commissioners for the
Reduction of the National Debt,
London.

Appendix, No. 7.

PAPER handed in by Sir *C. Rivers Wilson*, K.C.M.G., C.B. (with reference to Question 1276), by Mr. *Bartley*.

AMOUNT of Deposits in Trustee Savings Banks and Post Office Savings Banks forfeited since 31st March 1862, and applied to the Reduction of the National Debt.

Year ending 31st March	Trustee Savings Banks.	Post Office Savings Banks.	TOTAL.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1863 - - -	101 1 6	—	101 1 6
1864 - - -	101 13 11	—	101 13 11
1865 - - -	—	—	—
1866 - - -	—	—	—
1867 - - -	—	—	—
1868 - - -	—	—	—
1869 - - -	—	—	—
1870 - - -	—	—	—
1871 - - -	—	—	—
1872 - - -	—	—	—
1873 - - -	—	—	—
1874 - - -	—	—	—
1875 - - -	—	—	—
1876 - - -	—	—	—
1877 - - -	17 2 9	52 9 4	69 12 1
1878 - - -	—	—	—
1879 - - -	—	466 1 3	466 1 3
1880 - - -	—	19 2 -	19 2 -
1881 - - -	—	—	—
1882 - - -	—	—	—
1883 - - -	1,586 4 8	—	1,586 4 8
1884 - - -	—	—	—
1885 - - -	85 3 -	—	85 3 -
1886 - - -	10 9 1	—	10 9 1
1887 - - -	—	54 2 10	54 2 10
1888 - - -	—	178 15 11	178 15 11
1889 - - -	344 10 2	—	344 10 2
£.	2,246 5 1	770 11 4	3,016 16 5

Appendix. No. 8.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *W. Taylor* (with reference to Question 43 by Mr. *Bartley*).

LIST of those Trustee Savings Banks which do not propose to reduce the Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors by Five Shillings per Cent., the Amount of the Reduction in Interest Allowed to Trustees by the National Debt Commissioners.

BANK.	Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors to 20 November 1888.	Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors since 20 November 1888.	Decrease per Cent. in Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors.	Decrease per Cent. in Margin available for Expenses of Management.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Alexandria - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Ashbourne - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Ashby-de-la Zouch - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Aylesbury - - - -	2 12 1	2 10 -	2 1	2 11
Banff - - - -	2 12 1	2 10 -	2 1	2 11
Basingstoke - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Bolton - - - -	2 13 10	2 10 -	3 10	1 2
Boston - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Bourn - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Brecon - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Brigg - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Burnley - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Bury St. Edmunds - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Chelsea - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Chippenham - - - -	2 12 1	2 7 11	4 2	- 10
Cirencester - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Colchester - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Crewkerne - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Dunmow - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
East Grinstead - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Eccleston - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Elgin - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Ely - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Eye - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Fettercairn - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Forfar - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Forres - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Frodsham - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Gainsboro' - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Glossop - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Goole - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Grantham - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Hadleigh - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Harwich - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Haverhill - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Horsham - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Howden - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Inverness - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Ipswich - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Keswick - - - -	2 12 1	2 7 6	4 7	- 5
King's Lynn - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Kirkcaldy - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Kirkintilloch - - - -	2 10 -	2 7 6	2 6	2 6
Lancaster - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Lennoxton - - - -	2 12 1	2 7 6	4 7	- 5
Lincoln - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Lochmaben - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	-	5 -
Louth - - - -	2 14 -	2 10 -	4 -	1 -
Lowestoft - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Maidenhead - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Marnoch - - - -	2 12 1	2 10 -	2 1	2 11
Melksham - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Melton Mowbray - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Midhurst - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Mold - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Newark-on-Trent - - - -	2 12 1	2 10 -	2 1	2 11
Newcastle-under-Lyme - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Newport, Isle of Wight -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Otley - - - -	2 10 3	2 10 -	- 3	4 9
Oundle - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Paisley - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Peterboro' - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6

List of Trustee Savings Banks which do not propose to reduce the Rate of Interest, &c.—*cont^d*.

BANK.	Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors to 20 November 1888.	Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors since 20 November 1888.	Decrease per Cent. in Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors.	Decrease per Cent. in Margin available for Expenses of Management.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Pirehill Meaford - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Poplar - - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Rotherham - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Ruthin - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -
Saffron Walden - - -	2 14 -	2 10 -	4 -	1 -
St. Andrews - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Sleaford - - - - -	2 12 1	2 7 6	4 7	- 5
Southport - - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Southwell - - - - -	3 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Spalding - - - - -	2 10 -	2 7 6	2 6	2 6
Stepney - - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Tain - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -
Thornbury - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -
Trowbridge - - - - -	2 14 9	2 10 -	4 9	- 3
Tynemouth - - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Uxbridge - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -
Wantage - - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Wareham - - - - -	2 13 4	2 10 -	3 4	1 8
Wisbech - - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Witham - - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Woodstock - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -
Workington - - - - -	2 14 -	2 10 -	4 -	1 -
Wotton-under-Edge - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Wrexham - - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Yarmouth - - - - -	2 14 2	2 10 -	4 2	- 10
Yeovil - - - - -	2 12 6	2 10 -	2 6	2 6
Belfast - - - - -	2 12 6	2 8 4	4 2	- 10
Cavan - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -
Cork - - - - -	2 12 1	2 8 -	4 1	- 11
Ennis - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -
Navan - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -
Roscrea - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -
Youghal - - - - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	—	5 -

THE following Trustee Savings Banks have reduced the Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors by more than Five Shillings per Cent.

BANK.	Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors to 20 November 1888.	Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors since 20 November 1888.	Decrease per Cent. in Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors.	Increase per Cent. in Margin available for Expenses of Management.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cambridge - - - - -	2 13 4	2 7 6	5 10	- 10
Chatham - - - - -	2 12 2	2 7 -	5 2	- 2
Dover - - - - -	2 12 6	2 5 -	7 6	2 6
Gravesend - - - - -	2 14 2	2 8 -	6 2	1 2
Horncastle - - - - -	2 14 2	2 7 6	6 8	1 8
Inch - - - - -	2 13 4	2 6 8	6 8	1 8
Lambeth - - - - -	2 12 7	2 5 -	7 7	2 7
Northampton - - - -	2 15 -	2 7 6	7 6	2 6
Limerick - - - - -	2 12 1	2 6 10	5 3	- 3
Monaghan - - - - -	2 13 4	2 5 -	8 4	3 4

THE following Trustee Savings Banks allow Two Rates of Interest, and have altered them as under.

BANK.	Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors to 20 November 1888.	Rate of Interest Allowed to Depositors since 20 November 1888.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Richmond, Surrey - -	2 10 -	2 - -
St. Clement Danes - -	2 10 -	2 - -
St. Marylebone - - -	2 15 -	2 10 -
	2 - -	2 - -
	2 10 -	2 5 -

Appendix, No. 9.

PAPER handed in by *Mr. W. Taylor* (with reference to Questions 93 and 95).

RETURN showing the Number of Days and Hours in each Week during which Trustee Savings Banks are Open for the Receipt and Payment of Deposits.

• ENGLAND AND WALES.

SAVINGS BANKS Open DAILY.

Name of Savings Bank.	Hours per Week Open.	Name of Savings Bank.	Hours per Week Open.	Name of Savings Bank.	Hours per Week Open.
Stockport - - -	21½	Preston - - -	34	Taunton - - -	33
Maryport - - -	38	Warrington - - -	17	Brighton - - -	18
Exeter - - -	38	Leicester - - -	15	Coventry - - -	8
Bridport - - -	8	Blomfield Street - - -	29	Kingston-on-Hull - - -	32
Cheltenham - - -	16	Finabury - - -	26	Bradford - - -	30½
Alton - - -	34	St. Martin's Place - - -	39	Huddersfield - - -	17
Liverpool - - -	34	St. Marylebone - - -	36	Leeds - - -	20
Manchester - - -	32½	Bath - - -	7	Sheffield - - -	32
Average Number of Hours open in each Week - - - 25.					

SAVINGS BANKS Open THREE DAYS or More in each Week.

Reading - - -	6	Bury - - -	8	Northampton - - -	6
Cambridge - - -	10	Leigh - - -	6½	Newark - - -	4
Chester - - -	3½	Wigan - - -	8	Nottingham - - -	11½
Carlisle - - -	18	Boston - - -	8	Shrewsbury - - -	5
Derby - - -	4	Louth - - -	4	Castle Cary - - -	8
Devonport - - -	27	Charlotte Street - - -	9½	Lambeth - - -	24
Plymouth - - -	15	Chelsea - - -	10	Stratford-on-Avon - - -	10
South Shields - - -	4½	Kingsland Road - - -	6	Worcester - - -	14
Winchester - - -	5	Montague Street - - -	9	York - - -	4
Chatham - - -	24	St. Clement Danes - - -	7	Wrexham - - -	5
Ashton-under-Lyne - - -	13	Stepney - - -	8	Swansea - - -	11
Blackburn - - -	17	Norwich - - -	12		
Bolton - - -	24	Yarmouth - - -	5		
Average Number of Hours open in each Week - - - 10.					

SAVINGS BANKS Open TWO DAYS only in each Week.

Bedford - - -	8	Basingstoke - - -	2½	Retford - - -	6½
Newbury - - -	5	Newport, I. W. - - -	4	Worksop - - -	3
Wallingford - - -	3	Southampton - - -	4	Banbury - - -	4
High Wycombe - - -	3½	Leominster - - -	2½	Bridgnorth - - -	10
Wisbech - - -	4	Ashford - - -	3	Yeovil - - -	4
Birkenhead - - -	3	Gravesend - - -	4	Bury St. Edmunds - - -	6
Congleton - - -	3	Tunbridge Wells - - -	4	Ipswich - - -	4
Macclesfield - - -	9	Burnley - - -	4	Camberwell - - -	4
Northwich - - -	4	Chorley - - -	6½	Arundel - - -	2
Runcorn - - -	4½	Lancaster - - -	10	Battle - - -	3
Launceston - - -	4	Ormskirk - - -	4	Lewes - - -	7
Truro - - -	4	Ulverstone - - -	6	Marlborough - - -	2
Whitehaven - - -	3	Gainsborough - - -	2½	Bridlington - - -	4½
Alfreton - - -	2	Grantham - - -	3	Driffield - - -	4
Belper - - -	2½	Grimsby - - -	1½	Northallerton - - -	3½
Tavistock - - -	3½	Horncastle - - -	3½	Scarborough - - -	3
Sherborne - - -	3	Lincoln - - -	4	Doncaster - - -	9½
Barnard Castle - - -	2	Spalding - - -	4	Otley - - -	2
Darlington - - -	4	Limehouse - - -	4	Rotherham - - -	2
Monkwearmouth - - -	4	Tufton Street - - -	4	Settle - - -	3
Stockton-on-Tees - - -	2	Whitechapel - - -	9	Brecon - - -	3
Chelmsford - - -	5	Peterborough - - -	4	Welshpool - - -	5
Colchester - - -	5	Newcastle-on-Tyne - - -	5	Pembroke - - -	3
Cirencester - - -	4	Tynemouth - - -	2		
Average Number of Hours open in each Week - - - 4.					

SAVINGS BANKS Open ONE DAY only in each Week.

Name of Savings Bank.	Hours per Week Open.	Name of Savings Bank.	Hours per Week Open.	Name of Savings Bank.	Hours per Week Open.
Ampthill - - -	1	Hitchin - - -	1	Haverhill - - -	2
Abingdon - - -	2	Dover - - -	2	Lowestoft - - -	1½
Faringdon - - -	1	Folkestone - - -	2	Sudbury - - -	2
Hungerford - - -	1½	Tunbridge - - -	1	Woodbridge - - -	3
Wantage - - -	1	Clitheroe - - -	2	Dorking - - -	1½
Wokingham - - -	2	Kirkham - - -	2	Farnham - - -	1
Aylesbury - - -	1	Prescot - - -	1	Godalming - - -	1
Buckingham - - -	2	Southport - - -	2	Guildford - - -	2
Ely - - -	2	Ashby-de-la-Zouch - - -	3	Richmond, Surrey - - -	1½
Frodsham - - -	1	Melton Mowbray - - -	3	East Grinstead - - -	1
Knutsford - - -	2	Bourn - - -	1	Horsham - - -	1
Nantwich - - -	2	Brigg - - -	1	Midhurst - - -	1
Sandbach - - -	2	Caistor - - -	2	Petworth - - -	1½
Camborne - - -	2	Folkingham - - -	8	Rye - - -	2
Falmouth - - -	3	Sleaford - - -	2	Uckfield - - -	2
Helston - - -	2	Hackney - - -	1½	Kirkby Lonsdale - - -	4
Liskeard - - -	3	Poplar - - -	2	Calne - - -	1
Penzance - - -	2	Uxbridge - - -	2	Chippenham - - -	2½
Redruth - - -	2	Monmouth - - -	1	Devizes - - -	2
Wadebridge - - -	2	Pontypool - - -	8	Swindon - - -	1½
Cockermouth - - -	1	Aylsham - - -	1	Trowbridge - - -	2
Keswick - - -	2	King's Lynn - - -	2	Warminster - - -	6
Workington - - -	1	North Walsham - - -	1	Tenbury - - -	1½
Ashbourne - - -	2	Kettering - - -	2	Beverley - - -	2
Bakewell - - -	2	Oundle - - -	2	Howden - - -	1
Chapel-en-le-Frith - - -	3	Alnwick - - -	3	Bedale - - -	2
Glossop - - -	2	Berwick-on-Tweed - - -	2	Leyburn - - -	1
New Mills - - -	2	Hexham - - -	2	Malton - - -	1½
Wirksworth - - -	2	Morpeth - - -	3	Richmond, Yorkshire - - -	2
Dorchester - - -	3	Southwell - - -	1	Thirsk - - -	3½
Lyme Regis - - -	2	Henley-on-Thames - - -	3	Barnsley - - -	2
Poole - - -	1	Woodstock - - -	1	Goole - - -	1½
Wareham - - -	1	Ludlow - - -	2	Pontefract - - -	2
Chester-le-Street - - -	1	Newport, Salop - - -	2	Ripon - - -	1½
Seaham Harbour - - -	1	Oswestry - - -	3	Wentworth - - -	1
Saffron Walden - - -	2	Crewkerne - - -	2	Llandilo - - -	4
Witham - - -	3	Wells - - -	3	Llanelly - - -	2
Cainscross - - -	3	Cheadle - - -	1	Pwllheli - - -	2
Tewkesbury - - -	2	Newcastle-under-Lyne - - -	2	Ruthin - - -	1
Thornbury - - -	2	Rugeley - - -	2	Holywell - - -	3
Wotton-under-Edge - - -	6	Tamworth - - -	2	Mold - - -	2
Alresford - - -	1	Eye - - -	2	St. Asaph - - -	4½
Hertford - - -	1	Hadleigh - - -	3	Haverfordwest - - -	2

Average Number of Hours open in each Week - - - 2.

SAVINGS BANKS Open ONE DAY in each Fortnight or Month.

Name of Savings Bank.	Average Hours per Week Open.	Name of Savings Bank.	Average Hours per Week Open.	Name of Savings Bank.	Average Hours per Week Open.
Maidenhead - - -	1	Croston - - -	1	Pirehill Meaford - - -	1
Alston - - -	0½	Ecclestone - - -	0½	Framlingham - - -	0½
Lanchester - - -	0½	Abergavenny - - -	0½	Saxmundham - - -	0½
Middleton-in-Teesdale - - -	1	Allendale Town - - -	0½	Melksham - - -	0½
Stanhope - - -	1½	Ellesmere - - -	2	Newcastle Emlyn - - -	1½
Dunmow - - -	1½	Lilleshall - - -	1	Knighton - - -	1
Harwich - - -	0½	Whitchurch - - -	1½		

Average Number of Hours open in each Week - - - 1.

SUMMARY.

Number of Savings Banks.		Average Number of Hours Open in each Week.
Open Daily - - -	24	25
Open Three Days in Week or more - - -	37	10
Open Two Days in Week only - - -	71	4
Open One Day in Week only - - -	129	2
Open One Day in Fortnight or Month - - -	20	1
Closed since 20th November 1887 - - -	39	
Open at 20th November 1887 - - -	320	

I N D E X.

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Statement that the investment department was started in consequence of the prohibitive effect of the 50 *l.* limit, and that as Government would not grant small bonds, safe local securities were resorted to; larger rate of interest given to the depositor than he can obtain from the Government, *Meikle* 776-781—Details of the process of withdrawal of deposits, no money being paid out without the production of the pass-book and a comparison of the signatures, *ib.* 835-846—Losses experienced by the bank very trifling; absence of quarrels with the depositors, *ib.* 847, 848.

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Hull Savings Bank. There are twelve trustees and seventy-two directors, eight of whom form the board of management, *Rayment* 1119, 1120—The trustees devote a good deal of time to the management of the bank; there are 36,000 depositors, *ib.* 1119, 1120—The deposits being slightly in excess of a million, *ib.* 1121-1122.

Opinion that the very great preference shown by the people of Hull for witness' bank over the Post Office bank is due to the local influence of the trustees, managers, and directors, and to the fact that depositors can draw out their money at any moment from the former, *Rayment* 1123-1130. 1170, 1171—Description of the audit, showing that it is independent and continuous, *ib.* 1134-1137. 1162. 1172-1174—Occasional comparison of the pass-books with the ledger by the trustees, amounting to about 50 per cent. in the year, *ib.* 1138-1143.

Statement that the investments, amounting to 300,000 *l.*, are mostly made with the local authorities, the limit being 500 *l.*, and the interest to depositors 3½ per cent., *Rayment* 1149-1158. 1161-1169. 1185, 1186—A declaration is always taken from new depositors, and a note indemnifying the trustees against any loss incurred is required from all investing depositors, *ib.* 1175-1184.

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R E P O R T
FROM THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE
WALTHAM ABBEY
GUNPOWDER FACTORY BILL;
TOGETHER WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,
AND
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
9 May 1889.*

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WALTHAM ABBEY GUNPOWDER FACTORY BILL.

Ordered,—[*Friday, 12th April 1889*]:—THAT the Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Factory Bill be read a second time, and committed to a Select Committee of Seven Members, Four to be nominated by the House, and Three by the Committee of Selection.

THAT all Petitions against the Bill presented three clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee; that the Petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their Counsel, or Agents, be heard against the Bill, and Counsel heard in support of the Bill.

THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

THAT Three be the Quorum of the Committee.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.	}	Nominated by the House. [<i>Tuesday, 16th April 1889.</i>]
Mr. Pickersgill.		
Mr. Woodall.		
Mr. Brodrick.		
Mr. Arthur Elliot.	}	Added by the Committee of Selection. [<i>Tuesday, 30th April 1889.</i>]
Sir Edward Hamley.		
Colonel Nolan.		

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R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE to whom the **WALTHAM ABBEY GUNPOWDER FACTORY BILL** was referred ;—**HAVE** considered the said Bill, and taken Evidence thereon, which they have agreed to report to the House ; and have gone through the Bill, and made Amendments thereunto.

9 May 1889.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Thursday, 9th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Woodall.	Mr. Brodrick.
Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.	Mr. Arthur Elliot.

Mr. WOODALL was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated.—The Preamble was read the first time.

No Petition was deposited against the Bill.

Mr. *George Corble* was called to give evidence by the Committee.

Colonel *Noble* called, and examined.

The room was cleared and the Committee deliberated.

The Preamble was read a second time.

Question, That the Preamble is proved,—put, and *agreed to*.

Parties called in and informed thereof.

The Clauses were severally considered, amended, and *agreed to*.

Ordered, To Report, together with Minutes of Evidence.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Thursday, 9th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Brodrick.
Mr. Arthur Elliot.

Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.
Mr. Woodall.

MR. WOODALL, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Cameron.] THERE are certain verbal amendments in the Bill, Sir, as it is presented to the House this year, which have been made by the draftsman.

Chairman.] May I see the Bill with those verbal amendments?

Mr. Cameron.] Certainly, Sir (*showing the same to the Committee*).

Chairman.] I understand that they are not amendments made by the Committee.

Mr. Cameron.] No, Sir, they are made by the draftsman.

Chairman.] The Bill now before the Committee is to all intents and purposes the same Bill that was considered last year by a Committee of the same personal composition, who went carefully into the subject last year, except for certain very trifling verbal alterations, which do not affect the sense, which have been inserted by the draftsman, to which, I suppose, no exception is taken at all. I am sorry that Mr. Pickersgill, who was a very active Member of the Committee last year, is unable to be present; but he writes me to say that Mr. Corble, who I under-

stand is present, would like to add something to the evidence which he gave last year, and perhaps to offer to the Committee some suggestion. I would like to ask whether there is any other evidence that is thought by any of those present to be material. A report of the proceedings of last year is before the Committee, so that I think we may take it that that stands sufficiently before us for our guidance as if it had been given afresh before us now. Has Colonel Noble anything fresh to say?

Colonel Noble.] Nothing fresh, Sir.

Chairman.] But Mr. Corble would like to say something.

Mr. Corble.] I should.

Chairman.] Your evidence is not likely to occupy any considerable time, is it?

Mr. Corble.] It will only take a very few minutes.

Mr. Brodrick.] It being understood that the evidence which we call to-day is entirely on fresh points.

MR. GEORGE CORBLE, called in; and Examined.

Mr. Brodrick.

1. PERHAPS you would like to put your plan before us at once?—Yes. (*The Witness produced a plan, and laid it before the Committee.*)

Chairman.

2. You reside at Waltham Abbey?—I do.
135.

Chairman—continued.

3. And you have resided there for 13 years?—Yes.

4. And you have known the district well for 25 years?—Yes.

5. You gave evidence before this Committee last year with regard to the inconvenience which you

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Mr. CORBLE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

you thought the public would suffer from the diversion of the existing footpath, and you made certain suggestions with a view to minimising that inconvenience?—Yes.

6. Now, you have something further to add upon the same subject, I understand?—I may say that I have been requested, as a ratepayer and inhabitant, by some hundreds of the inhabitants who petitioned the Local Board of Health, to take this matter up on public grounds, and to attend here and suggest that what is now offered by the present Bill, that is to say, that diversion from C. to Y., is not sufficient. Would you allow me at once to point it out on the plan? Their contention is this (*pointing to the plan*): a power is given by the Bill to stop up at any time at certain points of the Quinton-hill footpath; there are no letters on this plan, but at all events so much as crosses the Quinton-hill property. When that is done a footpath will be given from C. to Y. on the Sewardstone side. So far that is a short cut from the path to Sewardstone-lane. But on the Waltham side, supposing the path to be stopped, some day a person coming from Waltham and getting to the side of the farm will have to retrace his steps back to this point and across by a small lane which leads up by the side of the cemetery; he will have to come back, in fact, 600 yards from that point to the Sewardstone-lane (*pointing out the same*).

Mr. Arthur Elliot.

7. If he does not know that the roadway is stopped?—Yes.

Chairman.

8. Six hundred yards, you say?—From here coming all the way back; but he has to retrace his steps 200 yards before he gets to what we may call the cemetery line.

9. How do you explain the 600 yards, is that the extent of the detour?—That is the extent of the detour from the farm till he reaches the Sewardstone-lane.

10. Do you think that that would involve any serious inconvenience provided that at the point where the footpath diverges there was a signal informing the passengers that the road was intercepted?—Of course that would prevent his having to retrace his steps there undoubtedly.

11. Your proposal, as I understand it, is that it would be desirable that the footpath should be continued at a right angle along the side of the brook?—In fact, the large majority of the inhabitants think that this path should be diverted, and if they cannot get it diverted any nearer than that line there (*pointing to the plan*), they think that there is no objection, or they cannot see why it should not be kept on the outside edge of the farm, right round there (*pointing out the same*). This road (*pointing to the same*) is very narrow and objectionable in summer time, very hot and dusty. A great many bicycles and tricycles travel that way; it is about 4 feet below the level of this land, and it would be a great boon to be able to walk on the higher ground here on the outside edge of the farm.

12. Within the boundaries of the Quinton Hill Farm?—Yes. Another point which the inha-

Chairman—continued.

bitants are afraid of is that when this power is obtained under the Bill this will be treated in the same way as the long walk and only opened on Sundays, so that they will lose the benefit of it for the rest of the week.

13. But you will remember that you had an assurance given you by the representatives of the Government on the last occasion that the road would be kept as free as possible for public use, and only closed through signals when the intrusion of the public would be inconvenient?—I remember that being given in evidence, but the inhabitants do not think that that is a sufficient guarantee, but that undoubtedly when the Bill is passed there will be power to stop it up at any time; and in the evidence given, I think it was at Question 178, by Colonel Noble, he stated there that the long walk is closed on week days, and the inhabitants think that this will be very likely served in the same way.

14. I am not sure whether you have said all you wished to say by way of an alternative footpath. May I not assume that you would advise that the footpath should be made to run alongside the brook at right angles to the existing footpath till it joined the Sewardstone-lane, in preference to the passengers having to return to the point and go round by the cemetery?—That would be giving us a little.

15. But can you explain to the Committee what would be gained by that, providing that an arrangement was made by which they could be informed by signal, on arriving at this point of divergence, that the roadway was closed?—As a matter of distance there would be little or nothing gained.

16. As a matter of distance there would be something lost, would there not. If a foot-passenger had to go up there, and then turn off at a right angle, it would take him a little longer than if he could go off diagonally at that point?—There might be a difference of a very few feet.

17. But you do not feel that there would be any direct advantage gained?—Not by a path being made merely across there; but if it were continued on the outside it would be a pleasant path, and the inhabitants think it would be something like a compensation. The inhabitants now feel, in fact, they are assured by the Government authorities, that it would not be possible to take the path across by the centre of the hedge there, although they would very much like to have it.

18. Have you anything further to say?—No, except that I cannot see what objection there would be to a path on the outside edge of the farm, from a danger point of view. It would be right away from the magazines or manufacturing houses, and beyond the distance given by Major Cundill, I think it was, the Government Inspector of Explosives.

19. In what you are saying you are speaking of what you hold to be a prevalent opinion among the inhabitants?—Among a large number of the inhabitants. The inhabitants, as we said before, thought the Local Board were neglecting their duty; they have stirred them up lately by a petition signed by many hundreds of persons, and they requested me to attend before the Committee and put these few points before you.

20. But

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Mr. CORBLE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

20. But the local board do not appear to be here?—I am surprised that they are not.

21. We must take it, therefore, that they have no opposition to offer to the scheme?—They are strongly divided in opinion amongst themselves. We thought of calling a special vestry to consider this, as a matter of vital importance to the inhabitants; but we found that the vestry would have no power; that the local board are the only persons who would have power to attend officially before you.

22. Surely the local board is the proper authority whose duty it is to watch and protect the interests of the inhabitants concerned?—Undoubtedly, and I think they have greatly neglected their trust, I believe (I cannot say certainly) that they have had an interview with Colonel Noble; but what transpired then I do not know; but we say strongly that they certainly ought to be here to watch matters in the public interest.

23. In default of their appearance you thought it right to give your views in the general interest?—That is so.

Mr. Arthur Elliot.

24. I should like to understand what you mean by a pathway along the road; do you mean immediately alongside the Seawardstone-

Mr. Arthur Elliot—continued.

road; that the pathway should come along here (*pointing to the plan*)?—On the outside edge of the Government ground, for the reason that this ground is so much higher than the land, and you get a pleasant walk instead of a walk on a disagreeable hot lane.

Mr. Alfred Gatherne-Hardy.

25. So far as you can see, there is no difference in distance between these two points here; no material difference?—No.

26. Supposing that a signal were put there, would that meet your views if, without having that path alongside the brook, there was the path along the higher ground on this side (*pointing to the plan*), so that you could walk across this path alongside the road; no path there, but a path along the high ground between those two points?—That would certainly be a great improvement, and would be very acceptable. I might add, if you would allow me, it is only a suggestion that it might be made at very little expense, and might be made a very pleasant walk. Of course the Government would have the power to put a high fence the other side and make it merely a narrow alley, which would be useless; but I should not think, if they made the path, they would do such a thing.

Colonel WILLIAM HENRY NOBLE, R.A.; Examined.

Mr. Brodrick.

27. You have heard the evidence given by Mr. Corble?—I have.

28. You heard the proposal he made: that a path should be made parallel with the Sewardstone-road, on the Government ground, touching and adjoining the road, but on the ground which is higher than the road. There is a pathway, at present, on the road, is there not?—There is a path, at present, on the road inside the fence, on the Government side of Quinton Hill.

29. On the Quinton Hill side, do you mean?—The Government fence runs along the Sewardstone-road; and inside that fence, on the Government side, there is a path.

30. Already?—Already; but that is not open to the public.

31. But Mr. Corble's proposal would amount simply to moving back the Government fence beyond the path and throwing the path into the road?—Provided the Government have no objection to losing the ground.

32. That would meet his views, as I understand?—That is as I understand it.

33. Would there be a great objection to that in your opinion; would it be a very expensive operation?—I do not think it would.

34. And you do not anticipate that there would be any serious objection to meeting the views of the inhabitants if that was done?—If that would satisfy the inhabitants.

35. But you are not instructed on that point?—I do not think it would.

135.

Mr. Alfred Gatherne-Hardy.

36. You do not think there would be any objection to it from a danger point of view, at any rate?—No, not from a danger point of view; but I cannot speak at all as to whether the War Office authorities would be favourable to doing that. From a danger point of view there would be no objection.

Chairman.

37. From what you know of the disposition and policy of the War Office Authorities, do you think that it is a proposal that would be seriously and favourably entertained?—Mr. Brodrick would be better able to tell you than I can as to that. I might mention that a deputation of the local board waited upon me about three days ago on this very question, and I represented to them that the present Bill that was being brought in was exactly and identically the same as the Bill of last year to which they gave their consent, and so far as I can judge, from what they told me, they were quite satisfied with it. The only thing was, that there was a sort of general feeling that the Government should give them some sort of compensation, or rather should give the town some compensation for the loss of the rights over the pathway.

38. I think the Committee were satisfied last year that there was an undertaking given that the War Office Authorities would do all in their power to minimise the inconvenience which the public would suffer from the obstruction and diversion?—Certainly; and that will be done.

B

39. That

9 May 1889.]

Colonel NOBLE, R.A.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

39. That is included in your instructions, I think?—Certainly.

40. Then, as you have heard, it has been suggested that people making their way along the road upon reaching the brook at Quinton Hill Farm, and finding the gate closed there, might have to return upon their own steps down to the point where they go off towards the cemetery; will you undertake that there will be such an intelligible signal placed at that point as to render that inconvenience, at any rate, impossible?—Certainly; at any rate that will be arranged.

Mr. Brodrick.

41. Is the land between the farm and the brook Government land?—No.

42. Then we should have to acquire that land in order to carry out Mr. Corble's proposal?—We should have to acquire that land to make the pathway on the other side of the brook.

43. But you undertake, as you said to the Chairman, to put a signal which would be unmistakable, and which will prevent passengers having to go and retrace their steps?—Yes.

44. And you are in a position on behalf of the Government to say that a footway will be provided either parallel with or in the Sewardstone-road which at all events will, to the utmost extent, convenience the passengers?—Certainly, if I get the order to do it.

Chairman.

45. (To Mr. Corble.) Have you anything further to say. You have heard what has been said. It is impossible for the Committee to exact a pledge, but I think you may take it from what has passed that your proposal for a footpath upon the higher ground within the enclosure, or rather within the area of Quinton Hill Farm will, if possible, be provided?—That would be very acceptable, but I hope that the Government will not merely move the high eight-foot fence that now goes on the extreme outside edge of the farm, and put it on the western side of the path, but if it should be something like an open fence it would be all right.

46. I think you may rest satisfied with the impression which you have made, and probably, if a deputation were to wait on the authorities at the War Office to represent their views upon it, they might rely upon the Government meeting them with as favourable consideration as possible?—Thank you.

Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.

47. (To Colonel Noble.) You have heard what Mr. Corble has said just now about the moving of the fence. Apart from the question of the footpath, have you anything to say upon Mr. Corble's remarks with regard to that?—I have only to say that we intend to put exactly the same fence as is now there back a little bit.

Chairman.

48. What kind of fence is it?—It is a close wooden fence about 8 feet high.

49. Then the passengers using the proposed footpath would be excluded from the pretty view

Chairman—continued.

which I understand they have looking over the estate?—Certainly.

50. Do you think that that would be material from the point of view of danger?—I think that a close fence is a necessity round there.

Mr. Brodrick.

51. Your object in making the concession would be in case the road was flooded to place them on the higher ground, and also to put them, as it were, off the road?—To enable them to walk on the pathway instead of on the dusty road.

Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.

52. But you do object, from the Government point of view, to any alteration which involves an open fence?—I do.

Mr. Arthur Elliot.

53. I do not quite understand the objection; what is the special object in keeping up a close fence?—I think you cannot make an open fence as secure as you can a close one.

Chairman.

54. A strong open iron fence, you think would be open to objections?—I think so.

Mr. Arthur Elliot.

55. I do not quite understand what sort of objections there would be; could they get over it more easily?—I think so; over it, or through it.

Mr. Brodrick.

56. The whole of our ground is carefully fenced in, is it not?—Yes.

Mr. Corble.] I know it is irregular, Sir, but might I be allowed one word?

Chairman.] Would you like to ask a question of Colonel Noble.

57. *Mr. Corble.]* Yes, Sir. (To Colonel Noble.) Is it not a fact that within 20 yards of the grand magazine at Fisher's Green there is a tall open iron fence, I may say an unclimbable fence, and no close fence round it, guarding the grand magazine?—No; there is the close fence round the grand magazine; there is an open fence partly down from this grand magazine. We put it up because we happened to have some open fence there; but, as a rule, we prefer having a high close fence.

58. Is not that an unclimbable fence?—Fences are called unclimbable by the people who sell them.

59. It would not be an impossibility to put such a fence down the side of this path, would it?—

Colonel Noble.] Am I under cross-examination, Sir?

Chairman.] I am asking Mr. Corble to elicit from you, so far as properly can be done, your view with regard to the character of the fence that would be necessary.

(To Mr. Corble.) I think you must be content with having elicited from Colonel Noble

Noble

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Colonel NOBLE, R.A.

[*Continued.*]

Noble that from the point of view of danger he would advise the Secretary of State not to permit an open fence.

Mr. Corble.] I quite accept that, Sir.

Chairman.] You observe that the inquiry has been conducted a little irregularly in order to show that every consideration, for instance, for persons affected, is felt by the Committee. Upon this point I cannot anticipate the decision which the Committee will arrive at, but you have, of course, an opportunity of making your representations to the Secretary of State upon the point which has been already in effect conceded so as to give you the largest amount of accommodation consistent with that which is the fundamental element of this Bill, viz., the absolute necessity of security against natural danger in the case of explosives.

Mr. Arthur Elliot.

60. (To Colonel Noble.) Is it only because an open fence is more easily got over or through that you object to it?—Yes, that is the principal objection.

61. You do not mind people looking through the fence as they walk along?—Of course there may be a certain amount of secrecy involved in the manufacture of gunpowder. We do not, in fact, want people to be looking into our works.

62. It used to be the case in London that there used to be very many close fences round Birdcage-walk and other places which obscured the view, and open fences were substituted with

Mr. Arthur Elliot—continued.

great advantage to the public?—It is a different thing with a gunpowder factory.

[The Witnesses withdrew.

The Committee-room was cleared.

After a short time the parties were again called in.

Chairman.] The Committee have resolved to report the Bill to the House, but Mr. Brodrick will make a statement on his own authority which you, no doubt, will be glad to hear.

Mr. Brodrick.] The Committee have considered the evidence which was brought before them to-day, and the proposal which has been made to the War Office to provide, parallel with the Sewardstone-road, and adjoining it, a footpath on the higher ground. The War Office are willing to undertake to provide such a footpath on the higher ground, giving up a portion of their own land for the purpose, and moving back their fence. With regard to the question which has been urged as to the substituting of open fence for the present close high fence, the evidence of Colonel Noble has been noted as to the danger; but the War Office have undertaken to consider the point in connection with the general principle of the Bill, and to see whether anything can be done; they cannot give any pledge upon that point, but they are willing to pledge themselves that a footpath shall be made, and their fence moved back upon the higher ground for the purpose.

R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

WALTHAM ABBEY

GUNPOWDER FACTORY BILL;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
9 May 1889.*

[*Price 1½ d.*]

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R E P O R T

FROM THE

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

TRADE (INCLUDING AGRICULTURE AND
FISHING),
SHIPPING, AND MANUFACTURES,

ON THE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL;

WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
16 May 1889.*

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1889.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRADE (INCLUDING AGRICULTURE AND FISHING),
SHIPPING, AND MANUFACTURES.

[*Thursday, 28th March 1889*]:—*Ordered*, That the *Weights and Measures Bill* be read a Second Time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c.

[*Wednesday, 10th April 1889*]:—Committee nominated of Sixty-eight Members—

Mr. Addison.
Mr. Asher.
Mr. Baring.
Mr. Barran.
Sir Walter Barttelot.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Sir Edward Birkbeck.
Mr. Bolitho.
Mr. J. C. Bolton.
Mr. Bonsor.
Mr. Boord.
Mr. A. H. Brown.
Mr. Brunner.
Mr. Burt.
Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.
Mr. Childers.
Mr. Colman.
Mr. W. J. Corbet.
Sir James Corry.
Mr. Craig.
Sir Charles Dalrymple.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.
Baron Henry De Worms.
Mr. Dixon-Hartland.
Sir George Elliot.
Mr. T. E. Ellis.
Colonel Eyre.
Mr. R. U. Penrose FitzGerald.
Mr. Gilliat.
Sir Julian Goldsmid.
Mr. Grotrian.
Mr. A. W. Hall.
Mr. Frank Hardcastle.
Mr. Heneage.

Sir William Houldsworth.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. Hoyle.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. William Lowther.
Sir John Lubbock.
Mr. Peter M'Donald.
Mr. M'Lagan.
Mr. Mundella.
Mr. Muntz.
Mr. Murphy.
Sir Stafford Northcote.
Mr. T. P. O'Connor.
Sir Richard Paget.
Mr. Parnell.
Sir Joseph Pease.
Mr. Richard Power.
Mr. Rathbone.
Mr. Edmund Robertson.
Mr. Craig Sellar.
Mr. Sexton.
Mr. Sheil.
Mr. William P. Sinclair.
Mr. Samuel Smith.
Mr. Ernest Spencer.
Mr. T. D. Sullivan.
Mr. Tomlinson.
Sir Richard Webster.
Mr. Wharton.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. S. Williamson.
Mr. C. H. Wilson.
Mr. Winterbotham.
Mr. Wood.

[*Friday, 12th April 1889*]:—*Ordered*, That the following fifteen Members be added to the said Committee in respect of the Weights and Measures Bill:—Major Banes, Mr. Barclay, Mr. Coddington, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Firth, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Lafone, Mr. Lane, Sir Frederick Mappin, Mr. Montagu, Mr. Jasper More, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Bryn Roberts, Mr. Royden, and Mr. James Stevenson.

[*Tuesday, 30th April 1889*]:—*Ordered*, That Mr. Firth be discharged, and that Mr. Lawson be appointed to the said Committee in substitution, in respect of the Weights and Measures Bill.

[*Wednesday, 1st May 1889*]:—Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN appointed Chairman of the Standing Committee on Trade, &c.

[*Thursday, 2nd May 1889*]:—*Ordered*, That the Standing Committee for the Consideration of Bills relating to Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, do sit and proceed with the Weights and Measures Bill upon Thursday, 9th May, at Twelve of the clock.

[*Thursday, 8th May 1889*]:—*Ordered*, That the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, have leave to print and circulate with the Votes the Minutes of their Proceedings from day to day.

[*Monday, 13th May 1889*]:—*Ordered*, That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of the cost incurred, and of the remuneration of the officer employed, in any local inquiry which may be held under the provisions of any Act of the present Session for amending the Law relating to Weights and Measures.

[*Tuesday, 14th May 1889*]:—*Ordered*, That Sir John Lubbock be discharged from the Committee on Trade, &c., and that Mr. Barnes be appointed in substitution.

Ordered, That Mr. Coddington be discharged from the Standing Committee on Trade, and that Mr. Elliott Lees be appointed in substitution, in respect of the Weights and Measures Bill.

R E P O R T.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE on TRADE (including AGRICULTURE and FISHING), SHIPPING, and MANUFACTURES, to whom the WEIGHTS and MEASURES BILL was referred, have gone through the BILL, and made Amendments thereunto.

16 May 1889.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRADE (INCLUDING AGRICULTURE AND FISHING), SHIPPING,
AND MANUFACTURES.

Thursday, 9th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN in the Chair.

Mr. Asher.	Mr. Hubbard.
Major Banes.	Mr. Lafone.
Mr. Barran.	Mr. Lawson.
Sir Walter Barttelot.	Mr. William Lowther.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.	Mr. Peter M'Donald.
Sir Edward Birkbeck.	Sir Frederick Mappin.
Mr. Bolitho.	Mr. Montagu.
Mr. J. C. Bolton.	Mr. Jasper More.
Mr. Brunner.	Sir Stafford Northcote.
Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.	Sir Richard Paget.
Mr. Craig.	Sir Joseph Pease.
Mr. Cremer.	Mr. Rankin.
Sir Charles Dalrymple.	Mr. Rathbone.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.	Mr. Edmund Robertson.
Mr. Dixon-Hartland.	Mr. Craig Sellar.
Mr. T. E. Ellis.	Mr. William P. Sinclair.
Mr. Frank Hardcastle.	Mr. Tomlinson.
Mr. Heneage.	Mr. Whitley.
Sir William Houldsworth.	Mr. S. Williamson.
Mr. Hoyle.	Mr. Wood.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Clauses 1—3, amended, and *agreed to*.

Clause 4, *agreed to*.

Clause 5, amended, and *agreed to*.

Clause 6, *agreed to*.

Clauses 7—11, amended, and *agreed to*.

Clauses 12—16, *agreed to*.

Clause 17.—Amendment proposed, page 5, at the end of line 11, to insert the words "except where by the written consent of the purchaser it is sold by boat load or by colliery waggons or tubs, delivered from the colliery into the works of the purchaser"—(Mr. Tomlinson).—Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, to leave out the word "written"—(Mr. Brunner).—Question put, That the word "written" stand part of the proposed Amendment.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 19.	Noes, 8.
Mr. Asher.	Mr. Brunner.
Major Banes.	Mr. Craig.
Mr. Barran.	Mr. Cremer.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.	Mr. Frank Hardcastle.
Mr. Bolitho.	Mr. Lawson.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.	Mr. Montagu.
Sir William Houldsworth.	Mr. Edmund Robertson.
Mr. Lafone.	Mr. S. Williamson.

Ayes—continued.

Mr. William Lowther.
 Sir Frederick Mappin.
 Mr. Jasper More.
 Sir Stafford Northcote.
 Sir Richard Paget.
 Sir Joseph Pease.
 Mr. Rankin.
 Mr. William P. Sinclair.
 Mr. Tomlinson.
 Mr. Whitley.
 Mr. Wood.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, after the words "or by" to leave out the word "colliery"—(Mr. *Brunner*).—Question put, That the word "colliery" stand part of the proposed Amendment.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 13.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
 Mr. Stormonth Darling.
 Sir William Houldsworth.
 Mr. Lafone.
 Mr. William Lowther.
 Mr. Jasper More.
 Sir Stafford Northcote.
 Sir Richard Paget.
 Mr. Rankin.
 Mr. Rathbone.
 Mr. Craig Sellar.
 Mr. Tomlinson.
 Mr. Whitley.

Noes, 14.

Mr. Asher.
 Mr. Barran.
 Mr. Bolitho.
 Mr. Brunner.
 Mr. Craig.
 Mr. Cremer.
 Mr. Frank Hardcastle.
 Mr. Lawson.
 Sir Frederick Mappin.
 Mr. Montagu.
 Sir Joseph Pease.
 Mr. William P. Sinclair.
 Mr. S. Williamson.
 Mr. Wood.

Proposed Amendment, further amended, and *agreed to*.

Clause, as amended, *agreed to*.

Clauses 18—19, amended, and *agreed to*.

Clause 20, *agreed to*,

Clause 21, Amendment made.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Monday, 13th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN in the Chair.

Mr. Asher.
 Mr. Barran.
 Sir Walter Barttelot.
 Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
 Sir Edward Birkbeck.
 Mr. J. C. Bolton.
 Mr. A. H. Brown.
 Mr. Brunner.
 Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.
 Mr. Craig.
 Mr. Cremer.
 Mr. T. E. Ellis.
 Sir Julian Goldsmid.
 Mr. Grottrian.
 Mr. Heneage.
 Sir William Houldsworth.
 Mr. Hoyle.
 Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Lafone.
 Mr. Lawson.
 Mr. William Lowther.
 Mr. Peter M'Donald.
 Sir Frederick Mappin.
 Mr. Montagu.
 Mr. Jasper More.
 Sir Richard Paget.
 Sir Joseph Pease.
 Mr. Rankin.
 Mr. Rathbone.
 Mr. Craig Sellar.
 Mr. William P. Sinclair.
 Mr. S. Williamson.
 Mr. C. H. Wilson.
 Mr. Winterbotham.
 Mr. Wood.
 Mr. Whitley.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Clause 21, as amended, further considered, and *agreed to*.

Clause 22, amended, and *agreed to*.

Clause 23, *agreed to*.

Clause 24, amended, and *agreed to*.

Clause 25, *agreed to*.

Clause 26, Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed, page 8, line 8, at the end of the Clause, to add the words "This section shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to coke, whether sold by weight or by measure"—(Mr. *Cremer*).—Question put, That those words be there added.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 12.

Mr. Cremer.
Mr. T. E. Ellis.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Isaac Hoyle.
Mr. Lawson.
Mr. Peter McDonald.
Mr. Montagu.
Mr. Jasper More.
Sir Joseph Pease.
Mr. Craig Sellar.
Mr. S. Williamson.
Mr. Winterbotham.

Noes, 14.

Mr. Barran.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. J. C. Bolton.
Mr. Brunner.
Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.
Mr. Craig.
Mr. Grotrian.
Mr. Lafone.
Mr. William Lowther.
Sir Frederick Mappin.
Sir Richard Paget.
Mr. Rankin.
Mr. Rathbone.
Mr. William P. Sinclair.

Question, That Clause 26, as amended, stand part of the Bill,—put, and *negatived*.

Clauses 27—30, *agreed to*.

Clause 31, amended, and *agreed to*.

Clauses 32—4, *agreed to*.

New Clause, "Provision as to local inquiries"—(Sir *Michael Hicks Beach*),—*added*.

New Clause, "Sale of wheat by weight"—(Mr. *Jasper More*),—brought up, and read the first time.—Question proposed, That this Clause be now read a second time.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Thursday, 16th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN in the Chair.

Major Banes.
Mr. Barclay.
Mr. Baring.
Mr. Barnes.
Mr. Barran.
Sir Walter Barttelot.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Sir Edward Birkbeck.
Mr. J. C. Bolton.
Mr. Bonsor.
Mr. Boord.
Mr. Brunner.
Mr. Burt.
Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.
Mr. Colman.
Sir James Corry.
Mr. Craig.
Mr. Cremer.
Sir Charles Dalrymple.
Mr. T. E. Ellis.
Colonel Eyre.
Mr. Gilliat.
Sir Julian Goldsmid.
Mr. Grotrian.
Mr. A. W. Hall.
Mr. Frank Hardcastle.
Mr. Heneage.

Sir William Houldsworth.
Mr. Howell.
Mr. Hoyle.
Mr. Hubbard.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Lafone.
Mr. Elliott Lees.
Mr. William Lowther.
Mr. Peter M'Donald.
Mr. M'Lagan.
Sir Frederick Mappin.
Mr. Montagu.
Mr. Jasper More.
Sir Richard Paget.
Sir Joseph Pease.
Mr. Rankin.
Mr. Rathbone.
Mr. Craig Sellar.
Mr. William P. Sinclair.
Mr. Samuel Smith.
Mr. James Stevenson.
Mr. Tomlinson.
Mr. Wharton.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Winterbotham.
Mr. Wood.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

New Clause, "Sale of wheat by weight."—Question again proposed, That this clause be now read a second time.—Question put.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 21.

Major Banes.
Mr. Barran.
Mr. Brunner.
Mr. Burt.
Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.
Mr. Cremer.
Mr. T. E. Ellis.
Mr. A. W. Hall.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. George Howell.
Mr. Isaac Hoyle.
Mr. Lafone.
Sir Frederick Mappin.
Mr. Montagu.
Mr. Jasper More.
Sir Richard Paget.
Mr. Rankin.
Mr. Rathbone.
Mr. William P. Sinclair.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Winterbotham.

Noes, 31.

Mr. Barclay.
Mr. Baring.
Mr. Barnes.
Sir Walter Barttelot.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Sir Edward Birkbeck.
Mr. J. C. Bolton.
Mr. Bonsor.
Mr. Boord.
Mr. Colman.
Sir James Corry.
Mr. Craig.
Sir Charles Dalrymple.
Colonel Eyre.
Mr. Gilliat.
Sir Julian Goldsmid.
Mr. Grotrian.
Mr. Frank Hardcastle.
Sir William Houldsworth.
Mr. Hubbard.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Elliott Lees.
Mr. William Lowther.
Mr. M'Lagan.
Sir Joseph Pease.
Mr. Craig Sellar.
Mr. Samuel Smith.
Mr. James Stevenson.
Mr. Tomlinson.
Mr. Wharton.
Mr. Wood.

New Clause, "Power to weigh coal in shop or vehicle"—(Sir *Michael Hicks Beach*),—*added*.

New Clause, "Board of Trade may order that any harbour authority shall become the local authority"—(Mr. *Sinclair*),—brought up, and read the first time.—Question, That this clause be now read a second time,—put, and *negatived*.

New Clause, "Application of fines"—(Mr. *Montagu*),—brought up, and read the first time.—Question, That this clause be now read a second time,—put, and *negatived*.

New Clause, "Powers to London County Council to exercise jurisdiction throughout the county"—(Mr. *Montagu*),—brought up, and read the first and second time.—Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed, line 4, after the word "London," to insert the words "exclusive of the City of London"—(Sir *Michael Hicks Beach*).—Question put, That those words be there inserted.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 36.

Major Banes.
Mr. Baring.
Mr. Barran.
Sir Walter Barttelot.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Sir Edward Birkbeck.
Mr. J. C. Bolton.
Mr. Boord.
Mr. Brunner.
Mr. Burt.
Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.
Sir James Corry.
Mr. Craig.
Sir Charles Dalrymple.
Colonel Eyre.
Mr. Gilliat.
Sir Julian Goldsmid.
Mr. Grotfian.
Mr. A. W. Hall.
Mr. Frank Hardcastle.
Mr. Heneage.
Sir William Houldsworth.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Lafone.
Mr. Elliott Lees.
Mr. William Lowther.
Mr. Jasper More.
Sir Richard Paget.
Sir Joseph Pease.
Mr. Rankin.
Mr. Craig Sellar.
Mr. Samuel Smith.
Mr. Tomlinson.
Mr. Wharton.
Mr. Whitley.
Mr. Wood.

Noes, 10.

Mr. Colman.
Mr. Cremer.
Mr. George Howell.
Mr. Peter M'Donald.
Sir Frederick Mappin.
Mr. Montagu.
Mr. Rathbone.
Mr. William P. Sinclair.
Mr. James Stevenson.
Mr. Winterbotham.

Other Amendments made.

Clause, as amended, *agreed to*.

New Clause, "Repeal"—(Mr. *Montagu*),—brought up, and read the first time.—Question, That this clause be now read a second time,—put, and *negatived*.

New Clause, "Inspectors not to impede or obstruct any business in the performance of their duties"—(Mr. *Tomlinson*),—brought up, and read the first time.—Question proposed, That this clause be now read a second time.—Motion, by leave, *withdrawn*.

SCHEDULES OF THE BILL CONSIDERED.

Schedule 1.—Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed, in line 34, to leave out the words,—

										<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
"	From 5 gallons to 2 gallons (peck), inclusive	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3
"	1 gallon to a $\frac{1}{4}$ gill, inclusive	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1"

in order to insert the words,—

"	From 5 gallons to 4 gallons, inclusive	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4
	Of 2 gallons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3
"	1 gallon or half a gallon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2
"	a quart, pint, half pint	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1
"	a gill, half gill, quarter gill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

—(Sir William Houldsworth).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment made.

Schedule 1, as amended, *agreed to*.Schedule 2, *agreed to*.Schedule 3, *agreed to*.

Schedule 4.—Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed, at the end of the Schedule, to add the words, "6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 37 (Bread Act), Section 7"—(Mr. Chamberlain).—Question, That those words be there added,—put, and *negatived*.

Question, That this Bill, as amended, be reported to the House,—put, and *agreed to*.*Ordered, To Report.*

REPORT

FROM THE

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

**TRADE (INCLUDING AGRICULTURE AND FISHING),
SHIPPING, AND MANUFACTURES,**

ON THE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL;

WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
16 May 1889.*

[Price 1½ d.]

149.

H—24, 6, 50.

Under 20s.

R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

WOODS AND FORESTS AND LAND REVENUES OF THE CROWN;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

M I N U T E S O F E V I D E N C E,

AND APPENDIX.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
26 July 1889.*

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HENRY HANSARD AND SON;
AND
Published by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding-street, London, E.C.,
and 32, Abingdon-street, Westminster, S.W.;
ADAM and CHARLES BLACK, North Bridge, Edinburgh;
and HODGES, FIGGIS, and Co., 104, Grafton-street, Dublin.

Ordered,—[Monday, 29th April 1889]:—THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Department of the Woods and Forests and Land Revenues of the Crown.

Ordered,—[Monday, 27th May 1889]:—THAT the Select Committee do consist of Nineteen Members.

Committee nominated of,—

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Charles Hall.
Sir William Harcourt.

Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Pinkerton.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw-Stewart.
Mr. Tuite.
Mr. Arthur Williams.

THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

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R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Department of the **WOODS AND FORESTS AND LAND REVENUES OF THE CROWN**;—**HAVE** considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following **REPORT**:—

YOUR Committee have examined numerous Witnesses upon the matters referred to them, but as it will not be in their power to conclude their investigation in the present Session, they have agreed to Report the Evidence already taken, and to recommend that a Committee on the same subject should be appointed in the next Session of Parliament.

26 July 1889.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Monday, 3rd June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir Joseph Bailey. Sir Michael Hicks Beach. Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck. Mr. Donald Crawford. Mr. Henry H. Fowler. Sir Henry Fletcher. Mr. Charles Hall.		Mr. Heneage. Mr. Hobhouse. Mr. Isaacs. Mr. Jackson. Mr. Samuelson. Mr. Shaw-Stewart.
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Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, 18th June, at Twelve o'clock.]

Tuesday, 18th June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Sir Joseph Bailey. Mr. Heneage. Mr. Donald Crawford. Sir Henry Fletcher. Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck. Mr. Jackson. Sir Michael Hicks Beach.		Mr. Arthur Williams.. Mr. Samuelson. Mr. Charles Hall. Mr. Arthur Acland. Mr. Isaacs. Mr. Shaw-Stewart.
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Mr. *George Culley* was examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Friday, 21st June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Mr. Arthur Acland. Sir Joseph Bailey. Mr. Donald Crawford. Mr. Charles Hall. Sir William Harcourt. Mr. Stormonth Darling. Mr. Jackson.		Mr. Samuelson. Mr. Shaw-Stewart. Mr. Arthur Williams. Mr. Heneage. Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck. Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
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Mr. *George Culley* was further examined.

Sir *James Campbell* and Mr. *Forster Brown* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Tuesday, 25th June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Shaw-Stewart.
Mr. Charles Hall.
Mr. Samuelson.

Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. Arthur Acland.

Colonel *Nigel Kingscote*, C.B., was examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Friday, 28th June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Arthur Williams.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Samuelson.
Sir William Harcourt.
Sir Joseph Bailey.

Mr. Donald Crawford.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.

Colonel *Nigel Kingscote*, C.B., was further examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Tuesday, 2nd July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Pinkerton.
Mr. Tuite.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw-Stewart.

Mr. Arthur Williams.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Charles Hall.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Sir William Harcourt.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.

In the absence of Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER, Mr. HENEAGE was called to the Chair; afterwards Mr. JACKSON in the Chair; afterwards Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Colonel Sir *Nigel Kingscote*, K.C.B., was further examined.

Mr. *Warner Charles Higgins* and Mr. *Edward Burrough* were examined.

Mr. *George Culley* was further examined.

Mr. *Frederick Hellard* and Mr. *Thomas W. Gorst* were examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Friday, 5th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Sir William Harcourt.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Shaw-Stewart.

Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. W. G. C. Beutinck.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

Mr. *Thomas William Gorst* and Mr. *George Culley* were further examined.

The Hon. *Gerald W. Lascelles* and Mr. *Ralph Clutton* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Tuesday, 9th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jackson.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Samuelson.

Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Charles Hall.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. Cavendish Bentick.

In the absence of Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER, Mr. JACKSON was called to the Chair.

Mr. *Arthur Cates* and Mr. *John Henry Clutton* were examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Friday, 12th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Charles Hall.
Mr. Arthur Williams.

Sir William Harcourt.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.
Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

Mr. *Ralph Clutton* was further examined.

Sir *Warrington Smyth* was examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Tuesday, 16th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Arthur Williams.
Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Arthur Acland.
Mr. Jackson.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Sir William Harcourt.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Charles Hall.

Mr. *Spencer W. Gore* was examined.

Sir *Nigel Kingscote*, K.C.B., and Mr. *George Culley* were further examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Friday, 19th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Arthur Acland.

Sir William Harcourt.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Charles Hall.
Mr. Shaw Stewart.

Mr. *Benjamin Hobbs*, Mr. *Arnold Thomas*, Mr. *Sydney Elsom*, and Mr. *Arthur Arnold* were examined.

Sir *Nigel Kingscote*, K.C.B., was further examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Tuesday, 23rd July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Shaw Stewart.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Pinkerton.

Mr. *George Culley* was further examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Friday, 26th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER in the Chair.

Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Shaw Stewart.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Jackson.

Mr. *Spencer W. Gore*, Sir *Nigel Kingscote*, K.C.B., and Mr. *George Culley* were further examined.

Mr. *G. List* and Mr. *Donald Beith* were examined.

The Committee deliberated.

DRAFT REPORT, proposed by the *Chairman*, read the first time, as follows:—

“Your Committee have examined numerous witnesses upon the matters referred to them, but as it will not be in their power to conclude their investigation in the present Session they have agreed to report the Evidence already taken, and to recommend that a Committee on the same subject should be appointed in the next Session of Parliament.”

DRAFT REPORT, read a second time, and *agreed to*.

Ordered, To Report, together with the Minutes of Evidence, and an Appendix.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME of WITNESS.	PROFESSION or CONDITION.	From whence Summoned.	Number of Days Absent from Home, under Orders of Committee.	Allowance during Absence from Home.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Sir James Campbell -	Deputy Surveyor, Dean Forest.	Whitemead Park, Coleford, Gloucestershire.	2	2 2 -	2 1 10	4 3 10
Mr. Forster Brown -	Deputy Gaveller, Dean Forest.	Coleford, Gloucestershire -	2	2 2 -	2 4 -	4 6 -
Rev. Sydney Elsom -	Baptist Minister - -	Lydney, Gloucestershire -	2	2 2 -	2 5 -	4 7 -
Mr. Benjamin Hobbs -	Farmer - - -	Oxford - - -	1	- -	1 1 -	1 1 -
Mr. George List - -	Chief Constable - -	Haddington - - -	3	3 3 -	5 9 -	8 12 -
TOTAL - - - £.				9 9 -	13 - 10	22 9 10

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Tuesday, 18th June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.

Mr. Charles Hall.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw-Stewart.
Mr. Arthur Williams.

MR. HENRY H. FOWLER, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. GEORGE CULLEY, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

1. YOU are one of the Commissioners for the Woods and Forests?—Yes.
 2. How long have you been a Commissioner?—I was appointed on the 3rd of June 1884.
 3. How many Commissioners are there?—Two.
 4. Colonel Kingscote is the other Commissioner?—Colonel Kingscote is the other Commissioner.
 5. Has the Board always consisted of two, or has it been increased or reduced since it was formed?—At one time it consisted of three Commissioners. At that time the Offices of Woods and Works were united; I think I may qualify that; I am not quite certain, but I think that even before they were joined there were three Commissioners of Woods and Land Revenues, but certainly after that junction of the Offices of Woods and Works there were three Commissioners; the Chief Commissioner and two other Commissioners.
 6. Now there are only two?—Now there are two. Since the separation of the Offices of Woods and Works in 1851 (or under the Act of 1851) there have been two.
 7. How do you divide the work between you?—That is divided by an Order of the Treasury. The same division that exists now has existed, I believe, ever since 1851; since the separation of the offices. The intention was to divide the work as evenly as possible as between the two Commissioners.
- 0.103.

Chairman—continued.

8. You each take separate departments?—The two departments are entirely separate.
9. Then each Commissioner deals with his own department exclusively?—Exclusively.
10. You do not confer with Colonel Kingscote, and Colonel Kingscote does not confer with you?—Not necessarily in our management. We do as a matter of fact, daily, almost, I should think; but, as a matter of fact, we are entirely independent of each other as concerns our separate charges.
11. Now can you tell the Committee just succinctly the various Acts of Parliament under which you are constituted and under which you act?—At the first meeting of the Committee one of the suggestions that you made was that we should name to Mr. Austen Leigh the more important Acts in order that they might be put into the hands of the Members of the Committee, and we named to him the three principal Acts; which are, 10 Geo. 4, c. 50; that is our principal Act—
12. Your foundation Act is the 10 Geo. 4, c. 50?—Yes; it repealed a good many general Acts going before; but that is itself now our principal Act. After that the most important Act is the 14 & 15 Vict. c. 42.
13. All the detailed provisions which regulate your proceedings are contained in the 10 Geo. 4, c. 50?—Yes, except where modified by subsequent Acts.

A

14. Then

18 June 1889.]

Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

14. Then what do you say is the next Act?—The next one of importance is the 14 & 15 Vict. c. 42, separating the Office of Works from the Office of Woods, and making better provision for the management of the Land Revenues.

15. And what was the next one after that?—The next one of importance is the Crown Lands Act of 1866, the 29 and 30 Vict. c. 62.

Mr. Isaacs.

16. What is the short title of the principal Act?—The "Crown Lands Act" is the short title.

Chairman.

17. In addition to that I see there was an Act passed when the Queen came to the Throne, in the Parliament of 1837; the 1 Vict. c. 2. I suppose that was the second; in fact, it was passed immediately after the assembling of Parliament after the Accession?—Yes.

18. I presume that is the Act under which you appropriate the revenues?—I forget the provisions of that particular Act.

19. I think we had better get this somewhat more fully. That Act after dealing with the various Acts prior, and especially that Act of course of George IV., and also some Acts of William IV., recites that "Whereas the said several hereditary rates, duties, payments, and revenues now belong and are due and payable to" Her Majesty; it then recites that Her Majesty has been "pleased to signify to your faithful Commons in Parliament assembled, that your Majesty placed unreservedly at their disposal those hereditary revenues which were transferred to the public by your Majesty's immediate predecessors, and that, desirous the expenditure in this as in every other department of the Government should be kept within due limits, your Majesty felt confident that your faithful Commons would gladly make adequate provision for the support of the honour and dignity of the Crown;" and thereupon the Commons through gratitude to the Sovereign "are desirous that a certain and competent revenue for defraying the expenses of your Majesty's Household, and supporting the honour and dignity of the Crown of the United Kingdom, during your Majesty's life (which God long preserve), may be settled upon your Majesty, as a testimony of our unfeigned affection to your sacred person, by whose happy succession to the Throne your Majesty's subjects have the strongest assurance that the religion, laws, and liberties of this Realm will be continued, and that your Majesty's said subjects and their posterity may, through the Divine Goodness, enjoy every blessing under your Majesty's auspicious reign, have therefore freely resolved to grant unto you, our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, a certain revenue payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and that the produce of the said hereditary revenues now payable to your Majesty should be carried to and form part of the said Consolidated Fund"?—Yes.

20. That is the Act?—That is the Act settling the Civil List.

Chairman—continued.

21. Then it is enacted that the produce of all the hereditary revenues of the Crown which were surrendered by his "late Majesty, King William IV., for his life and which upon the demise of his said late Majesty became payable to Her present Majesty," and so on, "shall be carried to and made part of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland." That is the 1st Victoria. Then in the next clause, "the clear yearly sum of 385,000 *l.*" is made chargeable upon "the Consolidated Fund for the support of Her Majesty's Household, and of the honour and dignity of the Crown." Then that Act also provides for the 1,200 *l.* a year, for the charge which is made for pensions; and there are restrictions on the granting of pensions. Then there is a Schedule to that Act which appropriates the 385,000 *l.*; 60,000 *l.* for Her Majesty's Privy Purse; 131,260 *l.* for the Salaries of Her Majesty's Household and retired allowances; 172,500 *l.* for the expenses of Her Majesty's Household; 13,200 for Royal Bounty Alms, and Special Services; pensions to the extent of 1,200 *l.* per annum (those are not added in; the 1,200 *l.* are exclusive of the 385,000 *l.*); and unappropriated monies, 8,040 *l.*; and this Act will "continue in force for six months after the death of" the Sovereign. I think that is the Act under which you now put the whole of the income to the Consolidated Fund?—Yes.

22. There was also under that Act a provision for 10,000 *l.* for Secret Service money; but that has been abolished since 1886. The payment of that 10,000 *l.* ceased under the Act of 1886?—Yes. There are a very large number of Acts, you are aware, that apply to the administration of the fund.

23. Yes; I want to get what I may call the Constitutional Acts; the Administrative Acts we will deal with as they arise; we have now the constitution, and the history of the Commissioners affecting the charging of the hereditary revenues of the Crown; on that you pay those revenues of the Crown to the Consolidated Fund?—Yes.

24. In the division of the work between yourself and your colleague, is there a division also of the staff?—There is some part of the staff which is common to both; otherwise the staff is divided between the charges. Certain officers of the staff act for both, as the Receiver General, for example, the bookkeeper, the registrar. I can give you the particulars of the staff, if you like.

25. I think we had better now, perhaps, have the staff complete at this stage of the inquiry; first, what is the salary of Colonel Kingscote and yourself?—£. 1,200 each.

26. Is that the maximum?—It begins and ends with 1,200 *l.*

27. Then it is the maximum?—Yes, it is the maximum.

28. Two Commissioners at 1,200 *l.* each?—Yes.

29. What is the next?—It is given in the Parliamentary Report; two Commissioners, 1,200 *l.* each; two principal clerks, one at a maximum of 900 *l.*, the other appointed at 600 *l.*, to rise to 800 *l.* For the last year the payment

was

18 June 1889.]

Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

was 693 *l.*; two senior clerks at 600 *l.*, eight assistant clerks, rising from 300 *l.* to 400 *l.*, five junior clerks, beginning at 150 *l.*, and rising to 250 *l.*; six men clerks, lower division, beginning at 80 *l.*, and rising to 200 *l.*; Chief Mineral Inspector who acts for both, —

30. You have finished now the clerical staff, have you?—No; I have to give the bookkeeper and the drawing clerk. I do not know why it is put in that particular order.

31. One Chief Mineral Inspector?—One Chief Mineral Inspector, who acts for both sides, at 800 *l.* a year; Receiver General (who is also receiver for the county of Middlesex), at 900 *l.*, with an allowance for a clerk of 100 *l.*; an Assistant to the Receiver General, appointed at 300 *l.*, rising to 400 *l.*, now at the maximum of 400 *l.*; a bookkeeper, appointed at 400 *l.*, rising to 600 *l.*, now at the maximum of 600 *l.*; a drawing clerk, appointed at 130 *l.*, to rise to 180 *l.*, now receiving 145 *l.*; an office-keeper, appointed at 110 *l.*, now at the maximum of 130 *l.*; four messengers from 85 *l.* to 100 *l.*. Then we have a branch of the office.

32. That is the London staff?—That is the London staff.

33. Exclusively?—Exclusively.

34. Do all those officers, except the Receiver General, devote the whole of their time to your department?—With one exception. The Chief Mineral Inspector is also Chief Mineral Inspector for the Duchy of Cornwall, Sir Warrington Smyth, and he has a Lectureship at the School of Mines.

35. What salary does he get from you?—£. 800.

36. What salary does he get from the Duchy of Cornwall?—I do not know.

37. And you do not know what he gets from his Lectureship at the School of Mines?—£. 200.

38. Perhaps you will ascertain what the payment is from the Duchy of Cornwall?—I think I could ascertain. I have got the accounts of the Duchy of Cornwall. I am not so conversant with them as to be able to find it quickly.

39. Does the Receiver General give the whole of his time?—Yes.

40. But you said he was Receiver General for Middlesex?—He receives all the rents for the county of Middlesex. That is not under my charge; but I believe I am quite correct in saying it; and he receives all monies of all descriptions that are paid to the office; he actually collects the rents for Middlesex.

41. You mean that his work in Middlesex is work under your department?—Certainly.

42. That answers my question. Now let us take the staff outside London—the branch staff; I presume you have surveyors in London?—I was speaking of the staff of the office, and I was a little doubtful as to where the Chief Mineral Inspector should have come in that category; but I was merely reading from what I have here. Colonel Kingscote has charge of the London property, and he will be able to tell you what officers are employed in London outside the Office of Woods.

43. Give us now the various branches under your department?—I can give it from memory.

O.103.

Chairman—continued.

44. If you like to prepare a Paper about it at your leisure we can take it another day?—I think I can give it perfectly correctly from memory. The officers outside my own department, are the Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest and of the Hampshire Wood, the Honourable Gerald Lascelles; the Deputy Surveyor of Dean Forest, Sir James Campbell; the Deputy Gaveller of Dean Forest, Mr. Forster Brown. Those are the chief officers for English properties under my charge, except that Mr. Wilkin, who is also receiver for Wales, receives certain fee-farm rents for England. There are besides four local agents whose sole time is not devoted to us, whom we occasionally employ in Wales to inspect the books of mines, slate quarries, and so on. In Ireland we have a separate staff, which is a branch of the office in London.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

45. Could we have the names of the agents in Wales?—Mr. Bowen, Mr. Davies—

Chairman.

46. I think it would save the time of the Committee if you would prepare a statement showing in the first column the name of every officer; in the second column, what his duties are; in the third column what his salary and remuneration and emoluments are; name, office, and pay: those are the three things we want?—Certainly.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

47. And the address or residence of the agents?—Yes.

Chairman.

48. Then you have a separate staff in Ireland?—Yes.

49. We will deal with that separately; have you a separate staff in Scotland?—We have not a separate branch of the office in Scotland; we have a receiver for Scotland who has a clerical staff; but the office in Ireland is simply a branch of the office in London, where clerks might be interchanged between the offices. The senior clerk in charge of the office in Dublin is exactly in the same position as the senior clerk in the office in London: and the assistant clerk in the same way. The revenue in Ireland is collected for us by the collectors of the Inland Revenue Department.

50. Will you now tell us what the division is between you and Colonel Kingscote in the various branches?—In England I have charge of all the Woods and Forests and Mines, except the Woods in charge of Colonel Kingscote, as well as the general Land Revenues in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the Islands of Man and Alderney; that is to say, in England I have charge of the Woods and Forests and Mines within such Woods and Forests, except the Woods in charge of Colonel Kingscote.

51. You say that you have all the Woods and Forests in England, except the Woods and Forests that Colonel Kingscote has. What are those that Colonel Kingscote has?—There are certain forests which have been disafforested; but still a certain amount of wood lands remain which are under the charge of Colonel Kingscote,

in

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18 June 1889.]

Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

in the centre and north of England. Colonel Kingscote has charge of the general Land Revenues in England, including Windsor Parks and Woods, Chopwell Woods, Salcey and Hazleborough Woods, and Delamere Woods. Those are the Woods that Colonel Kingscote has charge of; the Windsor Park Woods, Chopwell, in the county of Durham; Salcey, Hazleborough, and Delamere Woods.

52. Chopwell is in Durham; where is Salcey?—In Northampton.

53. And Hazleborough?—Northampton.

54. Delamere?—Cheshire.

55. What else have you got; you have all the mines, as I understand?—No; I have not all the mines in England. I have in England only the mines in Dean Forest and certain unimproveable fee-farm rents. There are some in charge of my colleague; but the smaller fee-farm rents are in my charge in England. Shall I enumerate the forests that are in my charge?

56. Now we will take that separately. I understand you have all the forests except Windsor, Chopwell, Salcey, Hazleborough, and Delamere?—Yes; that is so.

57. You have all the mines in Dean Forest?—Yes.

58. You have all the small fee-farm rents in England?—I cannot say that; but I have, I believe, all the small ones. There are certain fee-farm rents under the charge of my colleague. There are one or two small ones in charge of my colleague.

59. Is that all the property in England which you control?—That is all.

60. Have you anything in Wales?—I have all the property in Wales of whatever description.

61. Have you anything in Ireland?—The whole of the property in Ireland of whatever description.

62. Have you anything in Scotland?—The whole; the whole in the Isle of Man; and the whole in the Island of Alderney.

63. Will you give the Committee (I suppose you have got that) a general statement of what these properties are under your control. First give us the Woods and Forests in England. I mean, can you give us the acreage of them?—Yes, I can. At the first meeting of the Committee you wished us to prepare a statement.

64. Have you prepared it?—Yes. I would like to explain what I am going to hand in. The first Paper is the statement of the income arising from Woods and Forests and Land Revenues, from the year 1850 up to the year 1888; that is to say from the date of the last Select Committee. The last Select Committee at all events which inquired generally into the conduct of the Office of Woods was in 1849; and this statement of receipts and expenditure goes back to 1850, and comes down to 1888. This is the capital account for the same period showing sales and purchases and so on.

65-68. Before we come to this I want to see what the property is, roughly, and generally. Before we ask what its income is we want to know what it is. First take the Woods and Forests in England under your control. What are they?—I have charge of the Dean Forest.

Chairman—continued.

69. What is the extent of Dean Forest?—The acreage is 18,710 of the forest, as a forest. The acreage covered with woods is 15,664.

70. Is the Crown the absolute owner of that?—No; the owner, subject to certain common rights.

71. Yes; but it is the owner of the soil; of the fee, subject to certain common rights?—Yes.

72. The Forest of Dean, 18,000 acres. What you gave us just now is the property of the Crown, subject to the rights of commoners; and 15,000 acres of that is woods property?—Yes, woods, 15,664 acres.

73. The rest is pasture or arable land?—The rest is waste of the forest, which is partly covered with old trees and partly bare grazing ground.

74. Then as to the income from the Forest of Dean; what is the income from the woods and the income from the mines?—The income from the forest, with the exception of the mineral income, arises from the sales of wood and from the letting of certain lands connected with the collieries, and one or two houses and small pieces of land that are let.

75. Take the next forest?—The High Meadow Wood, High Meadows Estate we call it; 3,580 acres.

76. Where is that?—That is in Gloucestershire; almost adjoining Dean Forest. It slightly crosses the Wye, at one particular point of it; 3,404 acres are enclosed and planted. Nearly the whole of that estate has been planted. That is the freehold of the Crown. That belongs to the Crown in fee simple. It was purchased from Lord Gage. I forget the year of the purchase now. The next forest is the New Forest, which extends over 64,834 acres, of which 23,088 acres are covered with wool.

77. What are the other 40,000 acres?—They are waste land, grazed upon by cattle and ponies; a good deal heath, a good deal bog, and some rather better land. There is a great deal of very poor land. The next is Alice Holt Forest, which was never completely disforested, but practically disforested and allotted, and may be treated simply as "Alice Holt Woods," 2,077 acres, of which 1,892 are covered with wood.

78. In Hampshire?—In Hampshire. The Woolmer Estate, 2,063 acres, of which 856 only are planted; that is very poor moorland, and is let to the War Office.

79. That is also in Hampshire?—That is also in Hampshire. Bere Woods, also in Hampshire, 1,450 acres, of which 1,420 are covered with wood. Parkhurst Woods, in the Isle of Wight, 1,250 acres, of which 1,160 are planted. Those are all the woods and forests in connection with Dean Forest; I have the charge of the Manors of Staunton, English Bicknor, and St. Briavels, merely receiving the manorial fines, &c.

80. The only one of those forests in which there is mineral property is the Dean Forest?—Well, yes; minerals of any consequence; there is gravel, and so on. It is difficult to say what is a mineral.

81. Coal and iron?—Coal and iron, only in Dean Forest.

82. What

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

82. What is the extent of the acreage of the mineral property in the Forest of Dean?—Answering roughly, I should say 12,000 acres.

83. I mean roughly?—Yes.

84. You say you receive the small fee farm rents in England; are they scattered all over England?—Over 38 counties; and the whole sum is 1,250 *l*.

85. That is sufficient for the present branch of the examination, 1,250 *l*, scattered over 38 counties?—It is 1,293 *l*.; it would be better to say 1,300 *l*.

86. What is the average rent. What do they run from and to?—Upon my word I do not know that I could say off-hand.

87. Are they in pounds or shillings?—Shillings.

88. They are very small?—Very small.

89. That is all you have to do in England?—Just so.

90. What are the Crown properties in Wales?—The property in Wales arises in this way. Fee-farm rents and small manorial rents. I mean rents proceeding out of other people's property; 1,887 *l*. 19 *s*. 8 *d*. We have very little land which belongs entirely to the Crown; but rent of land there includes shooting rents where the Crown is Lord of the Manor, 2,543 *l*. 12 *s*. 2 *d*.; profits of manors, 1,015 *l*. 15 *s*. 10 *d*.

91. All these are simply manorial rights?—Profits of manorial rights.

92. Have you any property in Wales?—About 500 acres I think, on the whole, is absolutely the property of the Crown.

93. All the rest of the Crown rights in Wales are manorial rights, mineral rights, or sporting rights?—Manorial rights, mineral rights, and sporting rights, the sporting right being a part of the manorial right. We have the minerals under about certainly 300,000 acres in Wales; I believe rather more; say, from 300,000 to 330,000 acres, the minerals belong to the Crown.

Mr. Jackson.

94. Does that mean minerals of all kinds?—Minerals of all kinds; except in a few cases.

Chairman.

95. What counties are these 330,000 acres in?—Largely in North Wales, but spread all over Wales. Where wastes in Wales have been inclosed, minerals were reserved to the Crown as Lord of the Manor; and in some cases the wastes have not been inclosed, but it is the case equally that the minerals are the property of the Crown.

96. The Crown has acquired these mineral rights in Wales originally as lord of the various manors in which these mines are situated?—That is so.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

97. This includes slate quarries and so on, I suppose?—Yes; slate is a mineral.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

98. The Duchy of Lancaster, I think, is interested in it, is it not?—They have property in Wales, but I am not conversant with it. I have 0.103.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

not charge of it; and we have no connection whatever with the Duchy of Lancaster.

99. You have nothing to do with that?—Nothing whatever to do with it.

Chairman.

100. Have you any other property in Wales?—The profits on mines are the most important feature.

101. You have given us the mines?—I did not give you the sum.

102. I want just to get the properties, no matter what they produce?—That is all. Fee-farm and unimproved rents, proceeding out of other people's property, rents of land, shooting, foreshore, profits on manors, and profits on mines.

103. Are there any profits from fishings?—I think not in Wales. It depends upon whether Monmouth is considered in Wales or not.

104. I would not presume to pronounce an opinion upon that?—We have a bit of the Wye between Monmouth and Gloucestershire.

105. You have the foreshore, of course?—We have the foreshores which were left under our charge after the Act of 1866; but there is no salmon fishing on the foreshore in Wales, so far as I am aware of.

106. That disposes of Wales. What have you got in Ireland?—In Ireland the property consists almost entirely of unimprovable rents proceeding out of other people's property; rents reserved when the property was granted; quit-rents.

107. Fee-farm rents or quit-rents?—Quit-rents, the great bulk of them are.

108. Rents reserved to the Crown when the Crown granted the property to the predecessors of the present holders in title?—That is so.

109. And the property was granted subject to the payment of those quit-rents?—That is so.

110. To what extent of acreage do they run in Ireland?—An immense acreage, extending over a large part of Ireland.

111. You had better give us the amount if you cannot give us the acreage?—The income last year was 37,176 *l*. 7 *s*. 1 *d*.

112. What other property have you in Ireland? A very small property in land. The rents of the Crown property, including 10 *l*. for mines, amount to only 264 *l*. 17 *s*.

113. Have you any mineral property in Ireland?—That was a dead rent upon mineral property. We have one lease at all events completed for gold in Ireland. There are small rents of quarries.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

114. Is that included in the 264 *l*.?—Yes, there is only 10 *l*. arising from that.

115. Is that 10 *l*. in respect of the gold letting? Yes, it is.

Chairman.

116. Are there any fishing rights in Ireland producing income?—No, we have none whatever.

117. Nothing else in Ireland then?—Nothing beyond what I have stated.

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118. What

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

118. What have you in Scotland?—In Scotland the whole revenue is small; but it consists of a good many different items, and is rather a troublesome one.

119. Let us try and follow the same line we have done hitherto. Is there any property in land, of the Crown's?—Yes, there is.

120. How many acres?—About 8,300 acres.

121. In what part of Scotland?—The bulk of it is in Caithness; there are three farms in Caithness. Out of that 8,300 acres 6,000 are moor; there is a farm of about 350 acres close to Stirling in the county of Stirling; a farm of about 150 acres in Linlithgow, and another small farm of about 20 acres in Linlithgow. This is exclusive of foreshore.

122. Yes; I will ask you about that afterwards?—The acreage of the small pieces of land attached to other property is very small.

123. Have you any fee farm rents or quit rents in Scotland, or feu?—We have feu duties and casualties. The feu duties and casualties produced last year 11,813*l.* 19*s.*

124. Where were the properties principally situate from which the feu duties arose?—In almost every county. The surplus teinds produced 2,770*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

125. That I suppose is what we call in England "tithes"?—Yes, somewhat equivalent to tithes.

126. How have those become vested in the Crown?—Upon the abolition of the episcopacy in Scotland the property of the archbishop, bishop, and religious bodies generally were forfeited to the Crown, and these teinds remain as part of those forfeitures.

127. It is then I suppose in consequence of the Crown receiving those teinds that the Crown undertook the responsibility of keeping the public ecclesiastical buildings in Scotland in repair?—There is no undertaking.

128. All we have got of Scotch property at present is the property which the Crown actually owns; secondly, the feu duties; and thirdly, the teinds. What other properties have you?—I have told you that the farms produced 2,273*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* last year. Then the next part of the revenue arises from salmon and shell fishings, nearly altogether foreshore or sea fishings.

129. Foreshores in Scotland producing income in Scotland in respect of fishings?—In respect of fishings, there is a small sum due to river fishing; a very small sum.

130. What is the income from that?—The income from salmon and shell fishings, including small river fishings, is 6,004*l.* 18*s.*; that is to say, it was last year. The mines in Scotland produced last year 766*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

131. What have you got in the Isle of Man?—There the income is chiefly derived from mines. The unimprovable rents issuing out of private property in the Isle of Man produced last year 1,807*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*; the rents of property belonging to the Crown lands, buildings, &c., 1,020*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

132. That is land belonging to the Crown?—That is land belonging to the Crown.

133. What is the extent of the acreage?—It is very large for that sum. Under the disaf-

Chairman—continued.

foresting Acts of the Isle of Man the Crown was allotted a large area of hill-tops, of the mountains of the Isle of Man, and bought a good deal more, in order to produce the money for making roads, and so on; so that as a result the Crown has more than 13,000 acres of hill-tops in the Isle of Man.

134. Thirteen thousand acres not producing income, practically?—A very small sum, amounting altogether to 1,020*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

135. What else is there in the Isle of Man?—Mines and quarries, 6,990*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

136. How have those mines and quarries become vested in the Crown; are they under these 13,000 acres, or are they other property?—No, the minerals over a great part of the Isle of Man belong to the Crown.

137. Are reserved to the Crown?—Are reserved to the Crown.

138. What minerals are they, coal?—Chiefly lead. The greater portion of the income has arisen from two mines, the Great Laxey and the Foxdale Mines; but there are other mines and quarries.

139. Are the foreshore rights of any value?—No great value; we have lately sold some part of the foreshore in connection with the harbours, and are about to sell the foreshores of other harbours to the Insular Government.

140. That exhausts the Isle of Man?—That exhausts the Isle of Man.

141. What have you in the Isle of Alderney?—The whole revenue of the island for the last year was 332*l.*

142. What did it arise from?—Tithes, fines, chief rents, acquittals on sales, 126*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*; rents arising out of Crown property, houses and lands, 221*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; harbour dues, 181*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; waifs and strays, 1*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* The chief income there is from the harbour dues.

143. And that is the whole of the Crown property which comes under your supervision?—That is the whole that comes under my supervision.

144. Now we will just take the income; going back to the Forest of Dean, what is the present income arising from the 18,000 odd acres of woods in the Forest of Dean?—For the year ended 31st March 1888, these figures apply to the receipts from wood from Dean Forest itself and include some small rents of houses and land let in connection with collieries; it was 6,200*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

145. What was the income from the minerals?—In the Forest of Dean, from coal rents and royalties, 12,954*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; from iron 1,374*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*; from stone, 524*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*; and a miscellaneous income of 4*l.* 2*s.*

146. Is there any other income from the Forest of Dean?—No, that is the whole.

147. What staff of officers have you first to manage the forests and woods?—A deputy surveyor.

148. At what salary?—A salary of 400*l.*, with house and land valued at 119*l.* 10*s.*, allowance for horses, &c., 211*l.* 4*s.*; and as receiver of surface and quarry rents the same officer receives 137*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

149. What is the total?—I may explain that up to about two years ago, there were three chief officers

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

officers in the Dean Forest, a deputy surveyor, a deputy gaveller (who is practically the Viewer of the mining property), and a Registrar and Receiver; but on the retirement of the registrar and receiver I proposed to the Treasury, and the Treasury accepted the proposal, to do away with that as a separate office, and to make the deputy surveyor the receiver of surface rents, and the deputy gaveller the receiver of the mine rents, effecting a saving of something like 400 *l.* a year, and that is why there is a separate item. The deputy receiver received 137 *l.* 12 *s.* 8 *d.* as receiver of surface and quarry rents, making the whole payment made to him 868 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.*

150. What is his total salary and emoluments?—£. 868. 6 *s.* 8 *d.* That includes the value of the house and land, with allowances for horses and so on.

151. What other staff is there for the forest?—An assistant deputy surveyor, whose salary for that year was 150 *l.*; allowance for a house 60 *l.*, and other allowances, 193 *l.* 4 *s.*

152. Will you tell what the "other allowances" mean?—Horses, to begin with. Then both of them act as agents for looking after the railway lines, for which we are repaid by the railway company; and I think the whole sum we receive is about 105 *l.* divided between them, or 110 *l.*

153. We can have that afterwards as a set-off. This man has, first, a salary of 150 *l.*, then a house, 60 *l.*; do you give him a house worth 60 *l.*, or allow him 60 *l.* for a house?—That was allowed for a house.

154. Then you give him allowances of 193 *l.*?—I will read you the whole. The assistant deputy surveyor is paid for Dean Forest 100 *l.*; allowance for horse, 40 *l.*; allowance for house, 60 *l.*; allowance for coal, 6 *l.*; salary as railway inspector, 54 *l.* 12 *s.*

Mr. Heneage.

155. What is his total emolument without the salary as the railway official, because you get that back?—£. 348. 12 *s.* for Dean Forest and High Meadow Woods.

Chairman.

156. You pay him 348 *l.* 12 *s.*, and the railway company pay him 54 *l.* in addition?—Yes.

157. Who else have you?—Do you mean of the staff?

158. For the forest alone?—

Mr. Jackson.

159. May I ask one question to prevent confusion. You hear what the Chairman says; he is now asking you for the staff for the forest alone. You have given the income for the forest, and the High Meadow Woods separately. Do not these men deal with the two properties?—I am giving them together.

Chairman.

160. What is the income of the High Meadows?—The income of the High Meadows received from woods last year was 3,376 *l.* 14 *s.* 3 *d.*; that is from surface rents.

161. I am simply dealing with the woods now; I am not touching the mines?—Yes.

Q.103.

Chairman—continued.

162. We are now dealing with the surface income of 9,600 *l.* a-year. The total surface income from the Forest of Dean High Meadows is 9,576 *l.*?—Yes, that is so.

163. Now we come back to the staff, which is occupied in collecting this income of 9,576 *l.* The first officer, as I understand, gets 868 *l.* a-year, of which the railway company pays him 54 *l.*?—Yes.

164. The second officer gets 403 *l.*, of which the railway company pays him 54 *l.*?—Yes.

Mr. Jackson.

165. Does the staff, the list of which you are now giving, deal with anything except with the woods, of which you have given the income? Do they deal at all with the mineral revenue?—To the extent of the stone quarries that are not mines; that is all.

Chairman.

166. What are the other officers?—Then there is another assistant or wood foreman, with a salary of 65 *l.*; a house valued at 7 *l.*, and an allowance of 3 *l.*; total, 75 *l.*

Mr. Heneage.

167. That is all he gets?—That is all he gets. Then there is a wood foreman to deputy surveyor, who has a salary of 71 *l.* 10 *s.*, a house of 7 *l.*, and allowances of 3 *l.*; total, 81 *l.* 10 *s.*; three keepers whose joint salaries amount to 210 *l.*, houses and land, 79 *l.* 10 *s.*, and other allowances, 12 *l.*; making altogether 301 *l.* 10 *s.* for three keepers.

Chairman.

168. Will you define the word "keeper;" are they gamekeepers?—Yes, partly gamekeepers, partly in charge of keeping people from doing mischief in the way of setting fire to anything, or breaking trees or anything else; they are the caretakers of the forest.

169. Is the shooting let?—Between Dean Forest and High Meadow we receive a rent of about 113 *l.* for shooting. We have only charged 5 *l.* for a shooting license in the Dean Forest, and we only got two taken at that rate. There is very little game.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

170. That includes the 18,000 acres, does it?—That includes the whole of the forest, the 18,000 acres.

Chairman.

171. Now will you give us the rest of the staff?—Fourteen woodmen, salaries 17 *s.* per week, 618 *l.* 16 *s.*; houses and land, 86 *l.* 5 *s.*; other allowances, 80 *l.* 10 *s.*; total payment to these 14 woodmen, 785 *l.* 11 *s.* In the High Meadows Wood there are four woodmen who have the same pay.

Mr. Jackson.

172. The 14 woodmen are appropriated to the Dean Forest, are not they?—Yes; and four to High Meadow.

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173. How

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[Continued.]

Chairman.

173. How much do the four get; give us the gross total?—The four get 220 *l.* 16 *s.* Then there comes the receiver and registrar, an office that is abolished, as I explained. There is a small sum paid as due to him of 72 *l.* 13 *s.* 8 *d.* That ceased to exist there.

174. Is that all?—That is all connected with the management of the surface. The deputy gaveller manages the mining property.

175. I make that a total of 2,613 *l.*?—Yes, that is about it.

176. It is over 2,600 *l.* a year?—Yes.

177. We have now got, that in order to collect the income of the two forests, the Forest of Dean and High Meadow, which bring in a rental of 9,500 *l.* a year, it costs, exclusive of the London establishment, 26 per cent., 2,613 *l.*; is that so?—That is very likely so.

178. Is there any prospective income in the woods?—The great bulk of the wood is not fully grown or anything like it.

179. Is the bulk of the income of this 6,200 *l.* paid in the Forest of Dean from the sale of wood?—Yes, undoubtedly.

180. Is that a fair average?—I have no reason to believe it is not. I shall have to go back to look at other years to say whether it is or not. There was no unusual sale last year.

181. There is nothing special, either to make it exceptionally large or exceptionally small?—No, I think not. I do not remember any sale that would have that effect. In fact we have had great difficulty in all the woods in selling the last few years, and prices have been very low. There is a slight improvement now.

182. Is the timber grown for any public purpose at all, or is it all sold?—No, the intention in planting was to grow timber for the navy; but that is long exploded.

183. That is long since exploded?—That is long since exploded. Now we sell to anybody who will buy.

184. You are really manufacturers of timber?—We are manufacturers of timber.

185. Which you sell in the open market for what you can get?—Which we sell in the open market for what we can get.

Sir Henry Fletcher.

186. May I ask what sort of timber it is?—Nearly all oak in the Dean Forest. In the High Meadow there is some very fine larch; but it is nearly all oak.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

187. As it is cut down, is there any larch planted there?—The larch has been planted as nurses, a great part of it. There are some beautiful young larches (60 years' growth) in the High Meadows Wood still standing.

188. Is not it largely used for pit wood in the neighbourhood?—It has been very greatly used. You get a quicker return from larch than from anything else.

Chairman.

189. Now let us come to the mines. The mines in the Forest of Dean last year, the coal and the ironstone (the stone is of no importance)

Chairman—continued.

would produce 14,328 *l.* I think?—Yes. You are deducting High Meadow, are you not?

190. No, I am not. I want to include it?—15,220 *l.* 16 *s.* 2 *d.*, I have.

191. We did not get the figure for High Meadow. We got 12,954 *l.* from coal in the Forest of Dean?—£. 12,954. 19 *s.* 9 *d.*

192. Never mind the shillings and pence?—I mean if you put the 12,955 *l.*, coal rents and royalties; the 1,374 *l.* ironstone, 524 *l.*; miscellaneous, 4 *l.*; High Meadow, 363 *l.*, together it will come to that.

193. £. 15,220 is the actual sum paid as royalty?—Yes, there are royalties upon the coal and upon the iron.

194. And the stone?—It is partly a royalty and partly rents of quarries. We are rather adopting of late the royalty system with stone also.

195. You do not work any of those mines yourselves?—None.

196. Those are all let on lease, I suppose?—There is a peculiar custom which applies to Dean Forest; I cannot let a gale of coal upon lease. I cannot grant a gale of coal in Dean Forest to anybody, except a free miner, and it becomes his absolute property so long as he fulfils the condition of that grant.

197. The Crown grants the mineral to the miner?—Yes, over a certain area.

198. Over a certain area, the miner paying a certain royalty?—The miner paying a certain royalty.

199. Your area is limited to the miner; a man cannot go as a stranger from another part of England and take a grant?—I can only grant to a free miner, a man born and bred, and who has lived 21 years in the Hundred of St. Briavels.

200. Is there any question as to the term of the lease?—No, the royalty is subject to revision every 21 years.

201. It is a lease then practically renewable at the expiration of 21 years on terms?—Yes, subject to arbitration, if the Crown and the lessee disagree.

202. Do you remember what your royalties are just now on coal?—They vary very much, from a penny up to sixpence. They are very low.

203. Sixpence is your highest, and a penny the lowest?—Yes, in Dean Forest. In High Meadow, I think we have one case of 1 *s.*

Mr. Jackson.

204. Is that 1 *s.* per ton do you mean?—Yes, that is where the free miners do not exist, where the coal is absolutely the property of the Crown, and lying near the surface, I think.

Chairman.

205. What are your ironstone royalties?—They are threepence, fourpence, and sixpence. I have got it somewhere in a document.

206. Never mind, I see they are moderate. What are your staff for the mineral property?—Only the deputy gaveller who receives a salary of 550 *l.*, an allowance for clerks of 202 *l.* 10 *s.*; allowance for travelling expenses in the Forest, 50 *l.*; a commission of five per cent. upon the High

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

High Meadow minerals (26 *l.* 3 *s.* last year); and as receiver of the rents of coal and iron mines, 353 *l.* 5 *s.* 4 *d.*; total, 1,179 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.*

207. That is the deputy gaveller?—That is the deputy gaveller.

208. Now what does that gentleman do for that money?—He is practically the viewer of the forest mines. He examines all the works, advises me in fixing royalties, and sees that the mines are worked in accordance with the rules of the Dean Forest, which are very peculiar.

209. Does he go down the pits?—Yes.

210. He is what I suppose would be called elsewhere a mining surveyor?—A mining surveyor, or what in the north of England would be called a viewer.

211. In Durham he would be called a viewer; but in Staffordshire we should call him a mine surveyor; he gets 1,180 *l.* a year?—All told; part being an allowance for clerks. He receives altogether 1,179 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.*

212. Taking the clerks off, he practically gets 1,000 *l.* a year?—Something like it.

213. Who has he got to assist him?—He finds any assistants he requires for himself.

214. You have no other?—We have no other charge.

215. And he receives the rent for that?—He receives the rent and royalties for that.

216. And pays it over to you?—Yes.

217. I will just ask this question now: to whom do the two officials in the forest, the one who inspects the woods, and the other who inspects the mines, pay the rents?—They remit the rents to the Receiver General.

218. In London?—Yes.

Mr. Isaacs.

219. Just to put this matter quite clear; do I understand that the total cost involved in obtaining 15,220 *l.* from the mines in the Forest of Dean is 1,179 *l.* 1 *s.* 11 *d.*; is that quite clear?—No; that is not the whole expense. That is the whole expenditure on officers.

Chairman.

220. What other expenses are there?—There are a certain number of men who are employed to make mineral surveys.

221. I want all those?—I have not got them stated in a separate sum at all. I could give you the gross sum.

222. I want the gross sum?—Including salaries and emoluments of the deputy surveyor, the whole cost was 2,533 *l.* 11 *s.*

223. If we subtract from that the deputy gaveller, there is another 1,354 *l.*?—Yes.

224. Am I right?—Yes.

225. What is the bulk of that expenditure for?—For property tax, superannuation allowances out of tonnage duties, making surveys of the mines, and plans of the workings, and so on.

226. That is mineral surveyor's work?—Yes; but these men assist him in making the measurements.

227. In other words they do the work; they really go down and do the surveying?—I cannot of my own knowledge say to what extent he

0.103.

Chairman—continued.

does or does not go down. I know that he does go down, and reports to me upon the condition of the mines.

228. Are the royalties paid by measurement, or are they paid by weight?—They are paid by tonnage; by weight.

229. Who checks the tonnage?—The deputy gaveller.

230. He does not do it himself you know; who does it. The returns are checked; now I want to know who checks them?—That I cannot of my own knowledge tell you. I should be very glad if you would examine the deputy gaveller.

231. We will do that. I do not for a moment suppose you would understand all that. But at all events, for completing the work of the Crown; the lessor; there is another expenditure of 1,350 *l.* a year?—Yes.

232. Does that cover everything?—That covers everything.

233. Then we have a total expenditure on minerals, the income of which is 15,220 *l.* of 2,533 *l.*?—That is so.

234. You allow nothing else but these sums?—No, nothing else.

235. The rest of the income comes into your revenue?—The net income was 12,687 *l.*, deducting that 2,533 *l.* from 15,220 *l.* That charge includes income-tax.

236. Your fee-farm rents, I think you have told us were about 1,200 *l.* a year?—£. 1,293, in England.

237. I mean in England alone?—Yes.

238. What is the staff for collecting those fee-farm rents?—They are collected by Mr. Wilkin. I think the arrangement was made because he is Receiver for Wales, and collects in Wales similar rents. He receives 5 per cent. as commission, which for the year amounted to 54 *l.* 16 *s.* His allowance for travelling expenses was 75 *l.*, and part of the allowance of the clerk, that is to say the apportionment between Wales and England, is 8 *l.* £. 137 16 *s.* was the expense of collecting 1,293 *l.*

239. Is there any other charge for receiving that?—No, there is no other charge.

240. Does he go round and hold audits?—No; he does most of it by correspondence, but he has occasionally to visit to try to identify properties. That is the meaning of the allowance for travelling expenses.

241. The travelling is more than the 5 per cent.?—Yes, it is more than the per-centage.

242. Have these fee-farm rents stood at this figure for many years past, or have there been any sales?—There have been sales. You will find it in the Paper I have handed in.

243. Yes, I see. I will just ask you now, as part of the cost of working, are you gradually selling these fee-farm rents?—Whenever we can. I try to sell all the unimprovable rents proceeding out of other people's property whenever I have a chance. It is very disagreeable property to hold.

244. You need not answer my question unless you like; but may I ask on what terms you sell?—

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

sell?—Twenty-five years with a free conveyance in England and Wales, and the same thing applies to quit-rents in Ireland.

245. Anybody can buy at any time on those terms, can they?—Anybody can buy on those terms.

246. We will now go to the Welsh property. What is your staff for Wales?—The staff consists of the Receiver, Mr. Wilkin.

247. Give us his income, less what you have already given us as his income in England?—Two and a-half per cent. on profits of mines.

248. Two and a-half on mines rents?—Two and a-half on "collection rents," taking small rents that are put into one collection in North Wales.

249. What does it amount to on the mine-rents; what is his per-centage on the mine-rents?—The profits were 7,659 *l.* I can give you the whole payment he receives.

250. If you please; that is what we want?—£. 835. 16 *s.*; that is including all these different amounts.

251. That includes everything?—Then allowance to clerk applicable to Wales, 92 *l.* Besides that we paid to local agents 25 *l.* 8 *s.*; payments to stewards of certain Crown manors, 27 *l.* 18 *s.*

252. Do you mean that all the local agents get among them only 25 *l.*?—That is the retaining fee, and they are allowed expenses and special charges for surveys.

253. How much does all that come to; give us all the detail of the Welsh expenses?—May I go on with Mr. Wilkin?

254. Do it in your own way. What we want to get at is the entire cost of the collection of the Crown revenues in Wales; put it in any way that is most convenient to you?—Two and a-half per cent. on profits of mines; 2½ per cent. on the collection of rents; 5 per cent. on other rents received by him; 100 *l.* per annum for a clerk; 75 *l.* per annum for travelling expenses in England; that is putting the two offices together; actual travelling expenses, and 15 *s.* a day personal expenses when engaged in settling disputes respecting encroachments in Wales, and procuring agreements and acknowledgments of the Crown's rights; also the fees (not exceeding 10 *s.* in each case) from encroachers for agreements to rent or purchase encroachments.

255. That is Mr. Wilkin?—Yes; then he receives on sales by private treaty 10 per cent. when the purchase-money does not exceed 50 *l.*; 5 per cent. exceeding 50 *l.* and not exceeding 500 *l.*; 2½ per cent. exceeding 500 *l.* and not exceeding 1,000 *l.*; and 1 per cent. exceeding 1,000 *l.* On sales by public auction or tender he receives 2½ per cent. when the purchase-money does not exceed 1,000 *l.*; and 1 per cent. exceeding 1,000 *l.*, not including sales of foreshore, for which he is to be paid merely for his trouble and expenses. The 835 *l.* included everything he received in this last year, except the clerk.

256. £. 835. 16 *s.* covered his commission, and covered those various percentages in respect to any sales?—I am overstating his case. The 835 *l.* included payments to the local agents.

Chairman—continued.

257. Let us have that quite clear; what we want to know is, in whatever shape you may put it convenient to yourself, the gross cost of collecting the Crown revenues in Wales, exclusive of what Mr. Wilkin receives in England?—£. 981. 2 *s.* 11 *d.*

258. Does that include the local agents?—Yes, that includes everything.

259. Now are there any other persons besides Mr. Wilkin and these local agents?—No; nobody paid by us.

260. Then the whole of your revenue in Wales is collected for under 1,000 *l.*?—Under 1,000 *l.*

261. Just recall to us what the gross revenue in Wales is?—£. 13,106.

262. Give us the items of how it is made up?—Fee-farm rents, 1,887 *l.* 19 *s.*; rents of land, 2,543 *l.* 12 *s.*; profits of manors, 1,015 *l.* 15 *s.*; profits of mines, 7,659 *l.* 2 *s.*; total, 13,106 *l.* 9 *s.* 8 *d.*

263. On what principle are the mine rents calculated?—They are royalties upon slate, and lead, whinstone, lime, &c.

264. But you must have somebody else to check all those?—They are checked by the local agents.

265. What do the local agents get; 25 *l.* would not cover them?—They are included in that 835 *l.* 16 *s.*, the first item.

266. That will leave Mr. Wilkin nothing for himself?—The salary is about 600 *l.*

267. I do not want there to be any mistake; but I should have thought that there would have been some representatives of the lessor (that is the Crown) looking after the State, looking after the lead, and all these various things, all of whom would have to be paid; and I do not see in what item their payment comes; these mines are spread over various counties in North Wales, are they not?—Yes, over a great many counties.

268. There must be somebody looking after them?—These four local agents visit and check them.

269. I think you must have made a mistake?—The total salary received by Mr. Wilkin himself for that year was 678 *l.* out of the 835 *l.* I cannot see that there is anything remitted at all.

270. Can you give us what your net receipts from Wales were last year?—I make it 12,125 *l.* 6 *s.* 9 *d.*

271. That is about it?—I do not take it from the same figures.

272. It checks it, practically?—£. 12,125.

273. That practically proves that it is correct. What was your staff in Ireland; that you say is a sort of branch of this department here?—Yes; in the Quit-rent Office in Ireland is a senior clerk at 600 *l.* a year, an assistant clerk at 400 *l.*, and a lower division clerk at 106 *l.* 4 *s.*?—That is for last year.

Mr. Heneage.

274. Three clerks. What is the total?—£. 1,106 for these three clerks.

Chairman.

275. Then the Irish fee-farm rents are collected by the Inland Revenue people?—They are.

276. What

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

276. What do you pay them?—Two per cent.

277. How much is that?—The total payment of that per centage of two per cent. was 764*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* for that year. The charges for the Quit-rent Office were 1,408*l.* 18*s.*, the whole charges.

Mr. Jackson.

278. Does that include the payment to the collector?—The payment to the collector was 764*l.*

Chairman.

279. There is 1,400*l.* in addition to that?—£. 1,408.

280. What was the gross Irish income?—£. 37,441 for that year.

281. And the entire cost for the collection of that was 2,164*l.*?—Then there is a payment to the messenger and other persons at the office in Dublin of 289*l.*

282. In addition to the 2,164*l.*?—Yes, in addition; and small incidental expenses of 13*l.* 11*s.*; but I find here that the total expenditure for local management and collection, including the Quit-rent Office in Ireland, was 2,357*l.*; that is the whole.

283. Of this 37,000*l.* the great bulk, if I remember rightly, is for quit-rents?—Nearly the whole of it, unimprovable rents, at all events.

284. Are you also prepared to sell those when you get the opportunity?—Yes; we are very anxious to do so. We have sold a considerable amount during the last two years.

285. I see in 1888 the sale of those rents is a capital sum of 4,449*l.*?—Yes; and during the year that ended the 31st March last, I think it is a larger sum than that. We have been selling a good many of late; and as estates have been sold they are freed from the quit rents. The quit rents are redeemed. Formerly the quit rents were sold at 28 to 30 years' purchase; but I made an application to reduce that to the same number of years as that at which we sell similar rents in England, and the Treasury consenting the price was reduced, perhaps four years ago, soon after I became a Commissioner, to 25 years, with a free conveyance.

286. Supposing a tenant in Ireland buys under Lord Ashbourne's Act; and has to pay his landlord 17 or 18 or 19 years' purchase for the property, do you exact from him if he wants to purchase the fee-farm rent 25 years' purchase?—We charge as against the landlord the 25 years' purchase.

287. As against the purchaser, whoever the purchaser is, you charge that?—Yes, the landlord has to clear his estate before he can sell it. He may sell it at 17 years' purchase.

288. He may sell it subject to your quit-rent?—Yes, I think so. It is usually the case that the estates are required to be cleared of all incumbrances before the tenant purchases; therefore, the loss as between the 17 or 18 years and the 25 years, would fall upon the seller; that is, upon the landlord.

289. In every one of the purchases which have been taking place over the 10,000,000*l.* of 0.103.

Chairman—continued.

property during the last two years under Lord Ashbourne's Act, have you in every case been obliged to free the property from these quit rents?—The seller has, I believe, been obliged to clear away the quit-rent.

290. I want to be quite clear; is it the fact that you are still enforcing in Ireland the same rate of 25 years' purchase that you are enforcing in England?—That is so; and it is a very much reduced rate from what it was five years ago. As I explained, it was 28 to 30 years' purchase, and we reduced that to 25 years.

291. Any question of altering that has not come under your official consideration, I suppose?—Persons have spoken and written to me about it, and it has been proposed to reduce it; but at all events we have not done it.

292. Now as to Scotland; first of all give us the gross rental to recall it to our minds. What is the gross rental in Scotland?—The gross rental for the year ending March 1888 was 23,629*l.*

293. Now give us the staff in Scotland?—It begins with the Receiver General for Scotland, at a salary of 600*l.* a year, and an allowance of 350*l.* for clerks; the Chamberlain of the Bishopric of Orkney a salary of 120*l.*; Hereditary Chamberlain of the Lordship of Dunbar; that is, a payment in kind, varying with the value of corn; last year it amounted to 37*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* It is an hereditary office.

Mr. Jackson.

294. Does he do any work for it?—Yes; he remitted 510*l.* 14*s.* last year. The Hereditary Chamberlain of the Lordship of Strathearn gets a fee of 15*l.* The Hereditary Chamberlain remitted 116*l.* last year. That is an hereditary office. Then we have the local factor, a local agent, to take charge of the Caithness property. He receives 40*l.* a year. He is not a Receiver. He receives no rents.

295. Is that all your Scotch staff?—Yes, that is all the staff for Scotland. I have occasionally to employ a local agent to look after and manage and report to me what is wanted upon the Scotch farms; and I keep them a good deal in my own management.

296. What is the cost of those Scotch local agents?—The total cost of management and collection in Scotland was 1,162*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*

Mr. Heneage.

297. Is that in addition to the 1,278*l.*?—No, it is the total cost of collection.

298. The various salaries you have just been giving us come to 1,278*l.*?—Those salaries I read out amount 1,162*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

Chairman.

299. Yes, and in addition to that there is 1,162*l.*?—No; that is the whole collection.

300. There is not a penny here for local agents. You have just told us you have to employ local agents?—There is a valuer in the case of re-letting a farm to advise me upon something I was not satisfied about, to advise me whether

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

whether certain drainage should be done for example. Those are paid for on the job as part of the transaction.

301. You have no other people employed about mines?—Well, Sir Warington Smyth, who is a paid officer of the Crown at a salary of 800*l.* a year, looks after the Scotch mines as well as the English; but a very small portion of his salary would apply to the income from Scotch mines. The whole income from Scotch mines was only 700*l.* I think. The mining property generally is worth about 50,000*l.* a year, so that a very small part of his salary would apply to Scotland.

302. What is the total income of the Isle of Man?—£. 9,929 18*s.*

303. Now what is the staff for the Isle of Man?—The staff consists of the Seneschal, who is keeper of the Manorial Records, Seneschal or Steward of the Crown Baronies, and holder of Courts for the Crown. That is an office at all events for which we must pay the salary, and the salary for that office amounts to 200*l.* a year. The same gentleman is our Receiver, and his remuneration is 5 per cent. upon the sums collected by him, except the Crown's tithe-rent charge, for which he has 1 per cent. He has to provide any clerical assistance he may require and keep a horse. Those are the terms of his appointment.

304. What does that amount come to?—We have in the Isle of Man another charge; I do not know that that ought really to form part of the collection. We are now planting in the island; and I have there a forester who receives 35*s.* a week, that is about 91*l.* a year, for the management of nursery and plantations that we are now executing. We have been planting for about five or six years in the Isle of Man.

305. In the 9,000*l.* you take whatever income you get; therefore I think you must take that also?—I am including that in the gross cost; also a pension of 358*l.* 15*s.* to the late Receiver. All those things together made a charge of 1,122*l.* 13*s.*

306. That is all the expenditure there?—That is the whole expenditure.

307. Now Alderney?—In Alderney the position is very peculiar. We have to do a good deal of the business of Government.

308. How do you mean?—The Receiver in Alderney has 48*l.* We pay the Judge 150*l.*, the Procureur 38*l.*, the Greffier 24*l.*, the Harbour-master 19*l.*, the Gaoler 24*l.*; altogether 303*l.* 12*s.*

309. £. 303 12*s.*; and what was the revenue from Alderney?—£. 332, the whole thing goes.

310. It just pays its way?—Well, really it often does not. There was some property sold in the Island of Alderney, it might be proper to say, especially to other departments, to the War Office chiefly and to the Admiralty.

311. When was that sold?—1854, 1855, 1856, 1859, 1864, and 1872. Those are the chief sales; to Her Majesty's Ordnance, 842*l.* and 1,976*l.*; Admiralty, 909*l.*; Secretary of State for War, 1,007*l.* The rest are private sales.

Chairman—continued.

312. Then I think this would be a convenient time to you to put in this Statement of Receipts and Payments that you have prepared?—Yes.

313. I think that had better go in now?—Income and Capital Account.

314. This includes, of course, Colonel Kingscote's, as well as your own, does it not?—Yes, the whole.

The Witness hands in a Statement of the Receipts and Payments from the year 1850 to the year 1888, inclusive, marked (A).

Also a Statement of Receipts and Payments in respect of capital during the same period, marked (B).

He also hands in a Return of Income and Expenditure for the last 14 years in the form of the Return ordered by the House of Commons in August 1887, marked (C).

The Witness also puts in Abstracts of Income and Expenditure from 1879, showing England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, the Isle of Man, and Alderney, separately, marked (D).

315. With reference to the administration in the Forest of Dean, I will take you first with reference to the forest property. Have you any remarks to make to the Committee as to that administration?—As to the administration of the Forest of Dean; as to the manner in which it is conducted?

316. What are your views with reference to the holding of that description of property, as to whether it would be more advantageous to the Crown; to the public; if that property was sold or kept in its present condition?—The Forest of Dean would be a very difficult subject for sale, because you have the peculiar rights of the free miner which entitle the free miner to the grant of every gale; in fact, it prevents the Crown granting it to anybody, else other than a free miner. Then you have, as is usual in all such cases, the commoners' interest. I do not know what advantage would arise from disafforesting the Forest of Dean.

317. You think if power were obtained to sell, that the produce of a sale would not be commensurate to the income which is at present derived?—No, I do not say that at all; I think if you could free the Forest of Dean; that is to say if you could disafforest and sell, you would probably benefit yourself pecuniarily, "*you*" being in the position of the Crown as the owner.

318. Do you extend that remark also to the mines as well as to the woods?—No one would be subject to the present rights, I think, of either commoners or free miners. You would have to get rid of the rights in both cases, otherwise you could not sell.

319. Can you tell us what a free miner is; how do you define a man who has these vested rights in the Forest of Dean?—He is a man who has been born in the hundred of St. Briavels, —, twenty-one years of age, and has worked a year and a day in a mine. Those are the qualifications. Then he is put upon the register.

320. Is

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

320. Is there any register?—Yes, there is a register kept.

321. Who keeps that register?—The Deputy Gaveller. That is one of the duties of the Deputy Gaveller.

322. What is the extent of this "Hundred" in which these free miners must be born; is it a series of parishes?—Yes, it is a series of parishes; but I believe the boundaries are not very well defined. It is much larger, for example, than the Forest of Dean itself. The acreage of the Forest of Dean is about 18,000 acres, and I believe the other is more like 30,000 or 40,000 acres.

323. Then the people born in this area of 40,000 acres, having served a year in a mine, and being 21 years of age, constitute the class of free miners?—They constitute the class of free miners.

324. And the Crown can grant no mining lease except to one of these free miners in the Forest of Dean?—That is so.

325. How do they manage with reference to master miners; are there any large colliery miners, or are they all small?—The free miner makes haste to sell his grant to some mining speculator or some practical miner.

326. Then the free miner having got the grant from the Crown can sell it?—Yes; it is in the nature of a freehold at once.

327. What area do you grant ordinarily to a man; what extent?—The areas were laid down by what are called the Dean Forest Commissioners in 1841. There were three Commissioners appointed. They settled the metes and bounds of these gales, which, up to that time, had been very uncertain. There was a tremendous quantity of litigation going on for years and years connected with the working of these gales and the boundaries, and so on. The object of this Commission was to settle these, and to lay down certain rules, which were practically adopted, in an Act of Parliament for working the mines. There are great peculiarities connected with it.

328. Are all those rules embodied in legislation?—They are in an Act of about the same time, 1841.

329. Just give us the reference to that Act?—1st and 2nd Vict. c. 43.

330. Who settles the choice or priority of applicant for these gales?—That is in the order of application; but if more than one person applies upon a particular day, the first day of application, they draw lots for it. That is the old practice.

331. Is it the practice of to-day?—Well, it is the practice of to-day generally; but in peculiar case lately, practically, I may say, did what I could to defeat that system of lottery and uncertainty upon the forfeiture of four adjoining gales in the deep seams of the Forest. After consulting the Law Officer of the Crown to see that I had power to do so, I united these four gales to make a large area; one difficulty always represented to the office being that the areas are too small to tempt people to work the deep seams. In that way

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Chairman—continued.

we got an area of about 2,000 acres. To defeat this, or to throw it open to more free miners than would probably be the case if the forfeiture had been advertised in the ordinary way, I advertised that the forfeiture would take place unless the dead rents were paid at a certain hour, five o'clock in the evening of a certain day. The result of that was that everybody knew that the next day that if they put their names down they would have as good a chance as anybody else for the large gale. The consequence was that 174 free miners put their names down.

332. For one gale?—For one gale. That is now called the "Deep United Gale." It covers an area of 2,000 acres for two or three seams. There is that peculiarity in the Dean Forest, that you do not let everything in one gale. A gale may have two or three seams; and another gale may have the seams below those. The whole of the seams below a certain surface are not let under one gale. This having happened, 174 men having put their names down, all of whom were entitled to draw lots under the ordinary rules of the Dean Forest for the gale, so that only one out of the 174 free miners could have got this grant. I met a body of the free miners, including nearly the whole of those people at the Speech House in the Forest of Dean, and after a time they agreed, all of them, to withdraw their names in favour of one to whom I could grant the gale as a trustee for the remainder; so that there are 170 I think it is, or 174, I forget which, free miners now interested in that one gale, instead of only one, as would have been the case if they had drawn lots, because I can only grant to one free miner.

333. I suppose this forms a sort of company then?—This man is entitled, as trustee of the others, to dispose of this deep gale to a company.

334. He will dispose of it at a profit?—If he can obtain any money for it, that will be shared amongst these 174 free miners.

335. He has paid you nothing for it?—He has paid us nothing for it.

336. He sells it to a company for a sum of money?—Yes, if he can.

337. This sum of money he divides amongst the 174 people who put their names down for it?—That is so.

Mr. Jackson.

338. He sells it subject to the royalty that has to be paid?—Yes; subject to the royalty that has to be paid.

Chairman.

339. Have you no power to accept tenders?—We have no power. We have done with the thing altogether so long as they fulfil the conditions.

340. If 174 people want the same article, of course according to the ordinary rules of commercial transactions in this country, the question would be which man will give the most for it, and the man who would give the most would have it?—No; I have no power to do that; they are all equal.

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341. Then

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Ca

Chairman—continued.

341. Then are the terms on which this property is let settled by you, or how do you settle them?—We settle the terms on which we make the grants. We settle the dead rent, and the royalty, the basis of the whole arrangement being the old right of the Crown to put in a fifth man after the coal is won.

342. You put it up at a certain dead rent, to begin with, and a certain mine rent on the coal got; that is the basis of the grant, is it not?—Yes.

343. You can put that dead rent and mine rent at a higher rate, if you think proper, can you not?—The royalty is limited by the old right of the Crown to what I said just now. It is supposed to represent one-fifth after the coal is actually won.

344. You mean one-fifth of the selling price?—One-fifth of the full royalty; one-fifth of the full royalty after the coal is actually won.

345. What do you mean by royalty?—The full tonnage royalty. Suppose that 1 s. a ton is the royalty, it is one-fifth of that.

346. How do you get at the royalty, apart from the selling price?—Perhaps we are working from different ends, sir.

347. Yes, I am sure we are?—The position of the Crown is that these gales can only be granted by the Crown to a free miner.

348. Yes, that is first, the person. Your "person" is limited; you can only grant to a free miner. Now I want to know what limitation affects terms upon which you can grant to a free miner; you have 174 free miners all coming and asking for the same thing?—Yes.

349. Now I want to know whether you cannot raise your terms as anybody else would raise their terms if 174 people all wanted to buy the same article?—No, not at all.

350. That is what I want you to explain?—It is not fixed with reference to that at all. I am obliged to grant the gale to one of those 174. I have an application made, and I have no right to choose, or anything of the sort.

351. I want to know; are you bound, in originally fixing your terms, by any rules of the forest, by any rules of the Act of Parliament, or by any rules of the Crown; if I were letting a mine in Staffordshire to-morrow I should fix my royalty according to the market price of the day?—What I am trying to explain is this: the royalty we fix depends upon that old right of the Crown, the one-fifth full royalty when the coal is won. If that was 1 s. 3 d., say, we would fix our royalty at 3 d.

352. What I want to get at is how you fix the royalty?—I am trying to tell you.

Mr. Samuelson.

353. Is it not one-fifth the value on the profit of the coal when won?—No.

Mr. Jackson.

354. Cannot you give us a concrete example?—I am trying to do that.

355. Take actual facts. What happened with regard to the last one which you granted?—The

Mr. Jackson—continued.

Deputy Gaveller, who, I explained so ago, is actually the viewer, acting as our or mining agent, advised me as to what royalty would be upon coal in that position is to say, in the position of the particular. He says: That would be worth (as I now) 1 s. 3 d. to you, the Crown; having this condition it is worth 2½ d. or 3 d.

Chairman.

356. I quite understand that. Assume royalty for a certain description of coal that A B, if he was the absolute owner, would get 1 s. 3 d. a ton, the Crown only entitled to get 3 d.?—No, I do not myself well. I have said before that the full royalty after the coal was won must take what is the worth of that royalty, setting aside the expenditure incurred in the coal, which becomes a very serious thing in the deep gales.

357. All this is a variable figure. I see how you arrive at that. As I understand the matter, in dealing with the coal you have the selling price, that is the ultimate value of the coal, what the coal is worth in the market. There are three items which must be taken out of that selling price in an ordinary case. First there must be the cost of getting the coal, which you call it, or, as we should call it in Staffordshire the "Charter." You have the cost of getting the coal. Secondly, you have to give the mine owner his royalty, which represents the ownership of that specific mineral; and, thirdly, you have got to get the profit which the Crown must have for having furnished the capital to work the mine. You have got to get three things, and of course if it is 10 s. a ton it is one set of figures; if it is 15 s. a ton it is another set of figures; if 20 s. a ton it is a third set of figures?—Yes, that is so.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

358. Is there a customary royalty for royalties vary in each gale. I am advised by the deputy gaveller what the Crown's one-fifth, after the coal is won, is worth in each case.

359. Worth as a royalty?—Worth as a profit. Take for example where coal is lying on the surface, the winning of coal there costs nothing practically. We say it costs nothing; but the Crown is only entitled to one-fifth of the profit ever royalty you pay; but if the coal is 500 feet deep the Crown is entitled to one-fifth of the royalties.

Chairman.

360. One-fifth of what?—One-fifth of the profit.

361. What is that?—Suppose that the profit was 1 s. in the case of lying on the surface; suppose it was 1 s. below the surface; suppose to be the same coal, your royalty below the surface would be reduced in consequence of the cost of sinking to that 500 feet. That cost of sinking is now brought into consideration in fixing the Crown's royalty so that the interest of the free miner

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

swallowed up by a 2,000 feet sinking, the interest of the Crown remains pretty much of course quite even, because you have to bring the coal to the surface, and that would reduce the Crown royalty; but it is the duty of the deputy gaveller to advise me that one-fifth share of the Crown is when the coal is won in any particular case. He takes into consideration the cost of winning.

Does not the value of that royalty depend on the selling price of the coal?—No, the selling price of the coal eventually determines the royalty.

What do you put the royalty at in this case?—Two-pence, I think, or $2\frac{1}{2}d$.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

Why did not you put it higher?—Because he had no right to do so. The deputy gaveller advised me that that was the full value of one-fifth share of the Crown.

Chairman.

What the deputy gaveller advised you was a round sum which any one can work out; what is one-fifth of a specific figure. It is not to know how to arrive at that unknown value of the royalty. You know as well as I do that coal now, I suppose, in the Forest of Dean is worth 2s. a ton more than it was 12 months ago. We must take it at the time the operation is completed; the time that the grant is made.

Then the deputy gaveller fixes his royalty according to the price of the article in the market. Let us put it in this way: your deputy gaveller, for some reasons which you consider satisfactory, fixes what he considers is the value of the coal, and then one-fifth of that is calculated to be the Crown's share of it, and upon that basis the royalty is fixed. I cannot admit that last part, because it is a qualification "after the coal is won."

After the coal is won; you fix the royalty, and then you deduct the cost of winning the coal, and the Crown gets one-fifth?—Yes.

That being so, you tell us as a matter of fact that these lessees, to whom you grant these leases, do not work them themselves; they sell the coal. Generally speaking.

As a rule?—Where they are small ones they work them themselves.

Can you give us any idea of the profit made?—No, I do not know how one could tell.

Is it a considerable profit?—I think it is. No doubt it has been in some gales. I do not know of any large profit lately on any one.

Say that the cost of sinking pits and the mine would be something like that?—That is an extreme case.

A very large outlay of capital would be required, which not one of those free miners, who have occupied a year in the pits, has the means of raising?—There is no doubt about that.

Chairman—continued.

374. To one person, on behalf of those 174 people, you grant, with the consent of the 173, this mining lease so to speak?—Yes.

375. He then sells it to a promoter or speculator?—Yes.

376. Then the promoter forms a public company?—Yes, or works it himself.

377. Or a private company for the purpose of working the mine; and a large sum of money passes into the pockets of the first promoter who does the work; and, secondly, to the 174 people who have surrendered their rights?—Whatever sum is obtained for the gale will be divided amongst the 174.

378. What I want to ask you now, as the Senior Commissioner of Woods and Forests, is, whether you consider that is a satisfactory mode of dealing with the Crown property?—It is the mode in which I am obliged to deal with it.

379. Never mind the mode in which you are obliged to deal with it; we will come to that afterwards; do you think it is a satisfactory mode of dealing with it, or that it would be if you were not obliged to deal with it in that particular way?—I think all divided interests in property are bad, and cause great difficulties.

380. That is not my point; my point is not as to a divided interest; do you think, if you were advising a nobleman or private owner to make the best of his property, that any nobleman or private owner in the Queen's Dominions would adopt such a mode of dealing with his property?—Certainly not, but there we are. This is the custom of Dean Forest, under certain Acts of Parliament, and the rules of forest, and I must act accordingly. I think the position is a disastrous one myself.

381. You think the position is a disastrous one, and that the only justification for it is the actual wording of the Act of Parliament?—The justification of it is that these free miners have acquired a certain property, a certain right, which they greatly value. I do not know that there is any reason why we should deprive them of it. We are now experimenting in this way to see whether we can get the deep seams worked without having recourse to what was proposed some years ago, that is to abolish the free miners' interests so far as regards those deep gales.

382. Their rights are confirmed by Act of Parliament?—Their rights are confirmed by Act of Parliament. They have come down from time immemorial, I suppose.

383. And defined by Act of Parliament?—And are now defined by Act of Parliament.

384. But outside that Act of Parliament you think it is a very disastrous method of dealing with Crown property?—I do not think I should explain myself perfectly well if I said so. Considering what the position is, the present arrangements are all you can make. I do not know how you could improve upon them without getting rid of the free miner. I have tried to improve the position to the extent I have mentioned. I waited until I had the chance of putting a large area together; and the free miners were very much pleased with it; 174 of them were in

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Mr Heneage—continued.

393. Must his father be a free miner if his parents came to reside there for a year and he happened to be born there, would he, when he came of age be entitled to be a free miner? He must be born in the "hundred," but it is not necessary to be the son of a free miner. He must work the day and a year in a mine before he can be a free miner. He must be 21 years of age; but it does not follow that he need be the son of a free miner.

394. Then it is a vested right of a
Her Majesty, supposing he happens to
there?—It is.

395. Supposing you repeated the operation of putting together a number of gales of the same part of the forest, and went through the same process, would the 174 men who were applicants in the case to which you have just alluded be eligible to be applicants again?—A. Not hold more than three gales. All who hold less than three would be eligible.

396. And there is no limit as to the force of a gale?—They were all strictly limited by law. But when the gales come back to the hands of the Crown we claim to be absolute masters of them.

397. Therefore, supposing you unite three other gales in another part of the world, would the men who were applicants in that case, and who presumably will reap the benefit, supposing the company to be formed, of the money acquired, be eligible again to be taken into operation with your freshly-united gale? I consider so. I think distinctly that the men who have united a number of gales they have united a number of gales they have united a gale, and they are treated then as having united one gale.

398: You do not know how many of miners there are, do you?—About 1,2

400. The number who had taken to register themselves?—Yes, I dare say there are many who do not register themselves, but I suppose there are very many who do not register themselves because they are proud of their privileges.

401. Now with reference to the value of the Forest of Dean, you said the value was practically derived from the timber; agricultural value in the property in the Forest of Dean, I suppose?—No, there is not.

402. Are there any rights of pa
Yes; certain parishes touching the t
rights of common and rannage.

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

3. I understand you to say you have no power to let any portion of the surface?—We are under the Acts let portions for the use of collieries; for colliery works and so on.

4. I mean you cannot let for pasturage purposes?—No, we cannot.

5. Who are the people who are entitled to exercise rights of pasturage over the forest?—The inhabitants of certain parishes surrounding the forest. The right is exercised to a small extent.

6. Very small?—I think so.

7. Is it all in one manor?—No; there are several manors.

8. All which manors are vested in the Crown?—No; the Crown's right there is as a feudal right, not a manorial right; but the land lies in several manors. The Crown is lord of the manor of manors that lie partly in and partly outside the forest.

9. You plant timber, chiefly oak?—It has almost altogether oak.

10. No larches?—Only as nurses. There is very little larch left in the Dean Forest manor. There are a few spruce and a few Scotch fir, merely those that were left in where the larch failed. There is very little else in Dean Forest, but there are a few good specimens of trees where they have been put in as nurses allowed to stand; and there are some Spanish chestnuts scattered about, but the intention was it should be an oak forest.

11. An oak forest for the supply of the Navy?—Yes.

12. And now you do not supply the Navy at Dean?—No, not at all.

13. Do you sell by auction?—We sell by public and by private bargain, usually by auction and by tender. We send tenders out to a number of large wood merchants who we are likely to purchase, and to all who apply for them, and sell to the highest tenderer. That is the usual practice with the bigger wood.

14. You told us, when I commenced this examination, that you thought it would be very difficult to part with the Forest of Dean so long as the minerals are concerned?—Yes, very difficult.

15. What would be the position of it, in your opinion, so far as the woodlands are concerned, if the forests?—Seeing that it is subject to have its rights sunk in all directions and subject to the Crown rights, I think you would find it very difficult to sell.

16. If it were disafforested then there would be no difficulty?—Then the Crown allotment would be sold, no doubt.

17. Again, do you think it a satisfactory arrangement of things that the Crown should be paying 5 per cent. for realising its income from the sale of the Forest of Dean; if I remember it about 2,600 *l.* to obtain 10,000 *l.*?—Yes, it is a very expensive thing. The cost of an acre arising from wood and sales of wood in the preparation of the article for the market, and so on, which must be a very high percentage. It is not merely a question of 25 years.

Chairman—continued.

management, I mean. All these woodmen, and so on, are actually employed as a farmer would be employing his labourers. You are, as it were, putting into an estate as the cost of collection what is actually the cost of farming, and of the operations necessary to produce the article you sell.

418. That is what I wanted to ask you, whether this being not solely the ownership of property, but practically the carrying on of the business of the manufacture and growing of timber, do you think that a desirable property for the public to hold, and do you think it is a desirable business for the public to carry on?—I cannot say that it is a desirable business for the public to carry on, either a farm or a wood. I think that a corporation, as the Office of Woods is, always has a difficulty in the treatment of real property, but there might be very strong reasons against the Crown or the country parting with such a feature as the Dean Forest.

419. Looking at it from a mere commercial point of view, you could make it into more money?—You could make more money out of it, no doubt, by getting rid of it.

420. Now, with reference to High Meadow, that is chiefly agricultural property, is it not?—No; it is entirely covered with wood.

421. I thought you said there was an income from it?—No; it was purchased with certain plantations upon it, and they were increased until it is nearly all plantation; 3,404 acres out of 3,580.

422. How far is it from the forest?—It almost joins Dean Forest. It lies between Dean Forest and the Wye, but it crosses the Wye a little way.

423. That is not subject to any other rights?—That belongs to the Crown to do as it likes with.

424. Are there any minerals there?—There is some ironstone; I think there is a little coal, but it is very nearly outside where the coal crops out.

425. When was this property bought?—About the beginning of the century.

426. It was really bought in the days when it was wanted for shipbuilding, I suppose?—It was planted for the sake of growing timber for the Navy, just as the Dean Forest was; but there is a greater mixture there. The larch has done remarkably well; there are some very good specimens.

427. As to the fee-farm rents, you are prepared to sell them whenever you can get a purchaser at 25 years' purchase?—Yes, I think it extremely desirable to get rid of charges arising out of other people's property.

428. Do you think it would be worth while to reduce the price from 25 years to even a lower number of years, if you could get rid of them?—If we could get rid of them altogether, if it were not a question of getting rid of a few and going out to collect the remainder. No doubt if you could clear them all out it would be worth while to reduce that number of years; at the same time these are, as it were, the titles on which people hold property, and I do not think 25 years

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

25 years is too much. They are really very small reserved rents upon properties, and I think it would be certainly an inducement to most people to lay out their money at 4 per cent. in redemption of a charge of that kind. The security is perfect, you know.

429. Now with reference to Wales, there the bulk of the property is mineral. You receive 7,600 £ from minerals; profits of manors, 1,015 £; rents of land, 2543 £; fee-farm, &c. rents, 1,887 £. I suppose the land in Wales is agricultural land that you let?—No; we have very little land at all, only about 500 acres. It is all grazing, and let in five or six different farms.

430. Does this rental of 2,500 £ a year come from grazing land?—No; it comes more from rents of shootings and foreshores.

431. Sporting rents?—The Crown is still lord of the manor of a large acreage in Wales; 83,000 acres of unenclosed wastes. The shooting of that is let.

432. That is unenclosed land?—Unenclosed waste lands, subject to rights of common.

433. Does that include the mines?—Yes.

Chairman—continued.

434. Under those 83,000 acres you have mines, and under about 220,000 acres in a town, of which you do not take surfaces? have, where wastes have been enclosed.

435. You said you received 1,000 £ a year from manorial payments in Wales; what are they?—They are the ordinary profits of a manor.

436. Fines, heriots, and those sorts of things?—Fines, heriots, and those sorts of things are the ordinary profits of a manor.

437. Then with reference to the mines, the principle prevails with reference to the grant of mines in Wales. First tell us what are they?—Lead, gold, slate.

438. We will take the gold separately?—Lead, gold, slate, granite, greenstone, lime, manganese, pretty nearly every mineral one can think of.

Mr. Jackson.

439. Tin?—No tin.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

440. Is there any copper?—There is copper.

Friday, 21st June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.

Mr. Charles Hall.
Sir William Harcourt.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw Stewart.
Mr. Arthur Williams.

Mr. HENRY H. FOWLER, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. GEORGE CULLEY, re-called; and further Examined.

Chairman.

441. I THINK you want to make one or two planations, do you not?—Yes; if you would show me I should like to do so. First as to the expenditure on account of mines in the Dean Forest. The figures which I have given, or rather the answers I have given, as to the payments to local officials, and so on, in the other places leading up to this one of Dean Forest, cover the whole expenditure; that is to say, in the case of Wales, for instance, and Scotland, and Ireland. When we get to the Dean Forest, say this particular item of the mines, the payments to the local officers do not cover the whole expenditure. I have not seen my evidence, and I rather fancy the Committee might have been misled by a reference to a higher figure than that which covered these expenses. I should like to hear what are the expenses of local management. The salary, including payment of clerk registrar's and receiver's office through the deputy gaveller, was altogether for that year 903 l.

442. The answer is that you make the total of the Dean Forest 2,613 l.?—That is not quite the figure. The figure is 2,533 l. However that is not important. I was only anxious to know whether that figure had been mentioned, and that being the case I had better give an explanation.

443. If you please?—I was going to say the payment to the deputy gaveller altogether, including his clerk in the registrar's and receiver's office was 903 l. Out of that the deputy gaveller pays 100 l. a year, I know, to a clerk, and he accepted the office of receiver as well as deputy gaveller.

444. What does that reduce his net income to?—I think his net income is reduced by one hundred and another to something under 800 l. On the abolition of the separate office of receiver and registrar, Mr. Forster Brown, the deputy gaveller, undertook to collect the mining rents and his salary for that was 353 l. for that year. 0.103.

Chairman—continued.

It was not quite a complete year; and out of that, as I say, he pays 100 l. a year to a clerk to help him in that capacity. Then mention was made from the notes I was then reading of an allowance of clerks of 202 l. 10 s. Those are actually the men who chiefly help him in the surveys under ground, and that is the payment made to them. There are the payment of 903 l. to the deputy gaveller, his commission on High Meadow Wood, 23 l.; allowance for horse, 50 l.; the clerks I mentioned just now, 202 l. 10 s., and the cost of a mineral survey in addition to that, 61 l. 12 s. Then there come incidental expenses; I do not know whether I need read them all.

445. No, no; give us the total?—The total is 248 l. 5 s. I may mention one item there; for example, the cost of the repairs (gaveller's and receiver's office) is 55 l.; then there come other things, poor rates, 1 l. 19 s. 5 d., say 2 l.

446. Do not give us all these small items?—"Property tax allowed" is another, which is not even received; that is 3,665 l. It is not a receipt, yet that swells the apparent expenditure upon the property; "moiety of tennage paid to freeholders;" that is a thing I want to explain; it amounts to 298 l. in round figures; that is a mere incident of tenure. That is paid to owners of enclosed land outside the Forest of Dean, but within the hundred of St. Briavels.

447. You are now going to another question altogether. All that we have dealt with up to the present time is not your expenditure beyond the Forest of Dean, in any other part; and we are simply dealing with the staff payments. Tonnage has nothing to do with that. What we are wanting to find out first is, what it costs to work your establishment?—That is what I understood.

448. It has nothing to do with working your establishment what money you spend on repairs, or what money you spend on allowances?—No; but

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

but that sum having been named, I thought I had better explain it.

449. Do you say that the 2,600 *l.* includes 300 *l.* of income tax?—It includes 366 *l.* of income tax, and it includes this peculiar payment, which I would like to explain. It is a peculiar thing; the “moiety of tonnage paid to freeholders.” The freeholders are the owners of enclosed land outside the forest boundary, but inside the hundred of St. Briavels, still subject to the free miners’ rights; they are entitled from the Crown to the payment of one-half the royalty received. The royalty, as I explained, was small, on account of the free miners’ rights. In that case the freeholders are entitled to one-half the royalty; so that on one side of the expenditure appears this item, 298 *l.*, which ought to have been really a deduction from the receipts. It appears on the expenditure side, and of course the expenditure on that item is 100 per cent.

450. That you must correct in the table which you are to hand in to us?—I will hand you in this particular paper that I am now reading from, if you will be kind enough to take it. That explains the whole position. Then the other items included there are salaries and expenses of Mr. Francis (the late registrar, who is now retired) and superannuation, the two items amounting between them to 352 *l.* The only other payment of that kind is the salary paid, or part of the salary paid, to Sir James Campbell, the deputy surveyor, on account of his receiving the rents of the quarries. The deputy gaveller receives the rents of the mines, and Sir James Campbell receives the rents of the quarries; and the payment to him of 25 *l.*, makes up the sum of 2,533 *l.*

451. What we really want is to get the statement corrected by deducting from this 2,533 *l.* 11 *s.* the “property tax allowed” and “the moiety of tonnage paid to freeholders;” that has nothing to do with the cost of the working staff, has it?—No; just so.

452. What you mean is property tax you ought to have paid yourselves, but which has been paid by others, and allowed to the people who paid it?—Yes.

453. Before this comes in as an Appendix, strike out those two items and alter the total so as to make it a real statement of the case?—It is so dangerous to depart from the figures stated in our annual Report to Parliament, that I thought it better to include them. (*The Document is handed in.*)

454. Is there anything else you want to explain?—Yes, if you please. I do not know (because I have not had an opportunity of looking at the proof of my evidence) whether you were under a correct impression as to the percentage on surface management. I had not jotted up the figures; you did, Sir; 26 per cent., I think, you said it was of the receipts from the Dean Forest surface was consumed in management and maintenance.

455. Yes?—What struck me when I was going home, after leaving this room, was, that the Committee, or some Members of the Committee, might understand that that was the whole of the expenditure; that is to say, that 26 per

Chairman—continued.

cent. was the whole proportion of the produce of the forest which was consumed in management, and so on. I do not know whether that was the understanding; if it was I should like to explain further.

456. I will read you the questions and your own answers; after you had given all the details, I say, “Is that all?” Then you answer, “No, it is all connected with the management of the surface; the deputy gaveller manages the mines, the property.” (Q.) I make that a total of 2,613 *l.* (A.) Yes, that is right. (Q.) It is over 2,600 *l.* a year? (A.) Yes.” Then I put this question to you: “We have now got that, in order to calculate the income of the two forests, the Forest of Dean and High Meadow, which bring in a rental of 9,500 *l.* a year; it costs, exclusive of the Local Board establishment, 26 per cent., 2,613 *l.*; is that correct?” And you answer, “That is very likely so.” I understand that what you wish to tell the Committee is that that 2,613 *l.* does not include the whole cost?—It depends on how you put it. I think the only fair way is to give the whole expenditure as given in our Parliamentary accounts, where you find the proportion of the produce of the forest, which is consumed in management and preparation of the produce for market, and all that sort of thing for market, is not larger than 26 per cent. It would be an extraordinary statement to go forth to any foreign country or anywhere else that we were able to manage the Dean Forest at a charge of 26 per cent. upon the produce of the forest. To explain that, one article of great importance is bark, especially now, when we have no full-grown timber. In the case of that article at least 50 per cent. is consumed in preparing the bark. During these bad times, 1886, 1887, 1888, it is only 50 per cent. of the produce. That percentage of the money received from the bark is expended in preparing the bark for the market. I think the preparation of the bark for market in the Dean Forests, is cheaper than in the Forest of Dean; labour may be cheaper there; children may be easier to get, and so on. Sir James Campbell will be examined, and he will come to me if I am wrong in this statement, but I think it will vary from, say, 25 *s.* up to as high as 30 *s.* in the case of bark. £.2 is very small stuff; I should think the average would be something like 30 *s.*

457. What we really want to know is what costs you to obtain this 9,500 *l.* a year. I understand you the gross receipt is 9,500 *l.* a year?—Yes.

458. Then from that you have to deduct 2,613 *l.*?—£. 2,533, it is.

459. Well, whatever it is. You also have to deduct your agricultural cost, so to speak, of preparing your crop for market?—Yes.

460. What the Committee want to know is what the net product is; that is to say, what the Crown gets out of this?—Why I wanted to know the explanation was, that, if I remember right after finding out this 26 per cent., you seemed surprised, and asked me whether I thought that was a satisfactory property for the Crown to hold. Then I inferred that you considered the figure of 26 per cent. a very high one; so

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

necessary for me to explain that that did include the whole expenditure.

Will you put a statement in showing it is?—I will read it from the Parliamentary Report. I believe the Parliamentary Report is now in the hands of the Committee. If I will kindly turn to page 139, you will see it half way down the page, "Total for salaries and allowances, 1,810 *l.* 14*s.*" That was regular staff cost. Then if you look lower on that same page you will find labour, materials and artificers' bills (including of forest timber used), 123 *l.*, making a total 1,933 *l.*, or nearer 1,024 *l.* "Preparation of produce for sale," is the next item; "labour, 18 *s.* 8*d.*; materials and artificers' bills, 6 *s.* 6*d.*"

You need not give the small details?—Total there being 2,039 *l.*, or nearer 2,040 *l.*, maintenance and preparation of produce.

According to this Report, which we had before us the other day, the total expenditure for the Dean Forest, exclusive of mines, is 19 *s.* 9*d.*?—Yes, that is so.

And the total expenditure for High Forest is 1,589 *l.* 19 *s.* 5*d.*?—Yes.

And those two sums added together will be deducted from the 9,500 *l.* in order to find what is the real revenue obtained from the Dean Forest?—Yes, that is so. You will find the expenditure, again, that item of rates, and so on, of 530 *l.* for Dean Forest.

But as you yourself said just now those expenses if they were not charged there, if they were deducted on the other side, would the income be so much less, so that it comes to the same thing?—It would make a difference in proportion of expenditure.

Yes; in the percentage it would I know; we are now dealing with the net result. The net result, whichever way you take it, would be no different. I thought the Committee would like to see this.

Certainly; we are very much obliged to you for it?—It would have appeared very peculiar if it had gone forth as 26 per cent. only. I will point out another respect in which the condition of the Dean Forest is peculiar; there is no mature timber there at all. There was a general clearing between the years 1854 and 1864, which effectually ate the cake, and we have to wait until another one is baked. I will read some particulars as to that presently; but in the ordinary way of wood alone, such as we have in the Dean Forest (trees of from 50 to 70 years' growth), I have not had a chance of looking at it, but I should say of my own knowledge that 30 per cent. of the value of that produce would be consumed in cutting the trees, lopping, felling, tying up bays, faggots, and so on, preparing it for the market. That alone would cost something like 30 per cent. I would like for a moment to refer back to the state of the Dean Forest with regard to Dean Forest at the period of 1854, to show what these forests really were. In 1854 (I am speaking now of Dean Forest alone, and not of Dean Forest and High Forest together) the income of Dean Forest was close upon 14,000 *l.*, and the expenditure

Chairman—continued.

was 11,634 *l.* In 1855 the receipts of Dean Forest were 12,748 *l.*; the expenditure was 11,186 *l.* In 1856 the total income was 24,139 *l.*; the total expenditure, 11,456 *l.* In 1857 the income was 21,707 *l.*; the expenditure, 11,352 *l.*

469. You are not going through 30 years, are you; we will take the total?—No; only as far as this one. In 1858 the receipts were 26,894 *l.*, the expenditure 14,285 *l.*

Mr. Arthur Acland.

470. Were those the years they began to cut down the big trees?—They began about 1854 and ended about 1864. The notes I have made upon that are these: You were speaking of timber for the Navy, and the object with which these trees were planted was to grow timber for the Navy. Timber was bought for the Navy amounting to 2,734 *l.* in 1854; that was large timber. In 1855, timber to the extent of 5,853 *l.* was bought. We have now none of that description at all. The next year the Navy bought, or there was bought for the Navy, 14,436 *l.*, and rejected for the Navy and sold otherwise, 784 *l.*, making a total of 15,220 *l.* received for full-grown timber. In 1857 the receipts on that account were 8,736 *l.*, half sold to the Navy and half sold to other people, that is to say, timber of the size of Navy timber. In the next year, 1858 (the last one which I take), the Navy timber purchased amounted to 15,777 *l.*, and all the rest of the timber only to 22 *l.*, that is to say, 15,799 *l.* worth of full-grown matured timber was sold. Things rather diminished after that until the cutting of Navy timber ceased; the Navy, at all events, ceased to get anything after about the year 1864; and then come in expenses of planting to make up for this slaughter of timber; and we have fallen upon the intermediate stage, as it were. There is very little planting going on now, but there is no mature timber whatever, and it is not until there is again a fall of matured timber that anything like a large income will be made out of the Dean Forest.

Mr. Jackson.

471. Have you any statement showing the produce per acre for these respective years?—There is the real test. I did jot it down the other night.

Sir William Harcourt.

472. I suppose in dealing with timber you cannot estimate income year by year; you must take it over a long period or series of years?—You must take it over a series of years.

473. Perhaps you could prepare for us a table showing that?—Certainly. It is distinctly in proportion to the time the wood you have planted matures itself; you would have to take a longer period for oak, for instance, than for larch, and so on.

Mr. Jackson.

474. Will you put a statement in showing the produce per acre?—I am afraid that would be of very little use, except for the particular year, unless it went back over a long series of years. I will just explain that in this way: In the New Forest, where we are equally devoid of heavy timber for sale, the return per acre for that year

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Cont.]

Mr. Jackson—continued.

was only 1 s. 3½ d. per acre of the woods. For the Dean Forest in that year it was only 1 s. 8 d. per acre; but for the High Meadows, for example, where the wood is in a different stage, where there was a fair good thinning of heavy wood, in spite of the depression of prices, the return was 10 s. 6 d. per acre. These differences are enormous, even taking into consideration the value of the land, and everything else. That merely shows that it would be unfair to take any particular year as an example of the return from woodland.

Chairman.

475. What you had better do is this: prepare a statement in the shape that you wish to bring it before the Committee, taking Dean Forest and High Meadows, showing for any given number of years that you like what has been the cost and what the receipts, and that can go on to the Notes; then we can see it?—Yes.

476. We need not discuss it now; is there any other matter of explanation, because I want to go on with your regular evidence?—The only other figure I would like to quote is this: there is a good deal of wood outside the Dean Forest and the New Forest, which returned for 1888, 8 s. 7 d. an acre, and that was a specially bad year as to prices.

477. Now to go back to your evidence, I omitted, from a misconception of mine, to ask you the detail of the income and expenditure on the New Forest?—Do you mean now of the staff, or the whole expenditure.

478. I will take them separately. First, the staff: you did not give us the income of the New Forest; we want that first. I do not know how it was I omitted it. I thought it was Colonel Kingscote's department?—I think I had better give it you from the Parliamentary Report, because the Committee have that before them. If you will be good enough to turn to page 136, you will see that the total income there from receipts from sales of produce was 7,978 l. or 7,979 l. nearly. Then the receipts from all other sources made the gross amount 10,777 l. That was the total receipts; from the New Forest.

479. And yet the rents are only 1,350 l., are they not?—The rents received were 1,350 l.

480. Then there are various dues or fees for licenses to sport, and miscellaneous?—Yes.

481. All the rest of the income from New Forest is income arising from the sale of timber?—That is so, except what is stated in the Report. You will see there the value of fuel wood assigned in the forest, and so on. This is one item entered as a receipt, I mean that is carrying out the same principle, in accounting that mentioned before.

482. Do you mean that the tenants in the forest pay you so much for that wood?—No; they are entitled to this wood from their position.

483. But you put it as a receipt?—These things are always shown in that way.

484. I see you put it *per contra* on the other side: "Value of fuel wood assigned in the forest"?—Yes, that always runs up the percentage of expenditure; that is the reason why I mention it. The other side, taking it in the order of the other property, shows these figures: "Deputy surveyor, 500 l.; allowance for horses,

Chairman—continued.

120 l.; allowance for coals, 50 l.; total 610 l. I am speaking now of the New Forest alone, of any payments that are made in respect of property.

485. If any of those gentlemen you are reading over have anything else in addition to us now, because that is what we want to know, that is to say, this Parliamentary Return, to that extent is rather misleading; for if 670 l. does not represent the entire emolument of the deputy surveyor, tell us what the amount is that he gets?—If the Committee kindly turn to page 143 they will see the apportionment. This apportionment is an apportionment done by the Woods' Office.

486. If you would put it in this way; what the gross emolument of this gentleman is, and then say that the office arbitrarily apportioned 670 l. of that to the New Forest?—I will figure up then.

487. I want to know what this man gets together?—£. 920 is the total.

488. The deputy surveyor gets 920 l., you consider 670 l. is fairly chargeable to the income of the New Forest?—Allocated to the New Forest.

489. Then there is the first assistant assistant surveyor, does that represent the whole of his emolument?—That represents the whole sum paid to him. He is not employed in the other woods.

490. The second assistant, 150 l.; that represents the whole paid to him, does it?—That is so.

491. The third assistant is the same as the clerk to the deputy surveyor, 120 l. That is all. Then there come the foresters, 378 l.; woodmen, 12 in number, at 17 s. 6 d. a week, 534 l.

492. That makes a total of 2,212 l. 2 s. That is so.

493. That is what you would call the staff?—Yes, that is the staff.

Mr. Jackson.

494. You would hardly call woodmen part of the staff?—The woodmen work in the production of the produce and maintenance. The foresters and clerical staff are, the deputy surveyor, the first assistant, the second assistant, the third assistant, and the clerk to the deputy surveyor. The woodmen are employed also as carpenters. In this instance we have to take charge of 65,000 acres, not only of the portion alloted to the Crown, but the whole forest, which is burnt or trespassed upon anywhere.

Sir William Harcourt.

495. That would make the real staff less?—Yes, something over 900 l. less.

Chairman.

496. Then to that you have to add the cost of maintenance and general management, which really means the carrying on of the business?—£. 4,790.

497. Yes, first; but then there is the cost of machinery and other things below, making for general management of 8,893 l. 11 s. 6 d. Yes; in that you see rates and taxes, 46

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outlay on Whitley Bridge Lodge water supply, £1,000; and superannuation and the compassionate allowances, 434 £. However, I think it is quite safe to take it in that way.

Sir William Harcourt.

8. You have practically at present no timber?—I see the timber represents 365 £. You have no power of cutting timber now under the Act of 1877 in the open forest?—None without a manual. Sometimes we apply for a Signet Warrant to cut decayed trees in the open forest.

9. You cannot even cut the decayed trees in the open forest without?—We cannot even cut decayed trees in the open forest without a manual warrant.

10. Therefore outside the Crown enclosures you have practically no power of cutting timber?—No, none at all, without that authority.

11. That is not saleable timber?—That is not saleable timber.

12. Now, practically speaking, all the saleable crop you get from the New Forest is the timber of the plantations which were made under the Deer Removal Act of 1853?—Not altogether. Our power equally applies to thinning of the plantations that were there before the Deer Removal Act.

13. I stated it inaccurately, what were the plantations before 1853, and what are the plantations since?—That is so. That is what we rely upon for an income.

14. As to the plantations since 1853 of course there is no timber properly speaking?—No; the timber is we have practically no timber to sell. There is no full grown timber. I think there are about 300 acres, or a little over 300 acres of plantations that are very old; that is to say, that were planted about the year 1700.

15. The William III. plantations?—The William III. plantations. They stand very thick on the ground; thicker than the ground can carry; and we apprehend we shall have a certain amount of income from thinning some of them; but that is what we can rely upon in the place of large timber. There is a certain number of other plantations, about 1,000 acres, I think, which were planted about 1777. Those are where the ground has been good, matured, and there we have some thinning; but that is all we can rely upon in the way of full-grown timber.

16. A great fall of timber took place, I think, after the Deer Removal Act?—Yes.

17. There was a great fall of timber; do you mean to know exactly (or you could give us no doubt) what the sale of timber was at that time?—I was reading the statement for Dean Forest, I can read you a similar thing for some years in the New Forest.

18. I mean there was a great fall of timber before when the new plantation took place?—There was. I would like very much to be able to tell you the facts as to that. It is stated also in regard to New Forest; it shows how much the position was the same. In that particular year, in about 27,000 £ worth of large timber was sold out of New Forest, about 15,000 £ was sold out of Dean Forest.

1103.

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

509. What year are you referring to?—1856. The Navy timber sale from the New Forest amounted to 19,306 £; and other timber, a good deal of which was rejected for the Navy, to 7,612 £. There was 26,918 £ worth of full-grown matured timber sold that year.

510. That was principally the clearings for the new plantation, was it not?—It was a cutting, I suspect, to get revenue, and the new plantation was the result of that cutting. It was partly, as you say, no doubt. When they wanted to enclose a larger area they cut down a smaller area than it covered of large timber.

511. Taking the words used at that time, in order to make room for the new plantation, the old plantations were cut down “smack smooth”?—Yes; I think that was the expression often used. No doubt that was the case, to a certain extent. Where they enclosed a larger area they cut down “smack smooth” what was in it in order to replant it.

512. My recollection is that in those years there are something like 100,000 £ worth of timber cut down in the New Forest?—I can give you the figures as to that. In 1854, matured timber, 10,401 £; in 1855, 9,444 £; in 1856, 26,918 £; in 1857, 13,126 £; in 1858, 6,861 £; in 1861, 7,332 £. I was doing this last night, and there I ceased; but I can give you the return.

513. The greater part of that money was expended on making this new plantation, was it not?—No doubt. There was a great expenditure on new plantations immediately after this. This money was expended upon planting immediately afterwards, you will find, by referring to old reports. Of that large income there was a comparatively small margin, because of the planting.

514. And those new plantations now are, of course, comparatively, as far as timber is concerned, altogether unprofitable, are not they?—There has been an actual deficit during the very bad prices of the years 1885, 1886, and 1887; we could not make ends meet. It was not possible; we could not sell some of the stuff, at any price.

515. And the price of the Scotch fir that was planted as nurseries for this oak timber has fallen very much, has it not?—Very much indeed.

516. A few years ago it was almost unsaleable, was it not?—We considered ourselves excessively lucky to get rid of it. We had a great lot of it on our hands. Something happened which caused a sudden demand, and we got rid of some which we never expected to get rid of. It was very difficult to turn it into money at all.

517. A great deal of that woodland, then planted, is, I think, really not oakland at all, is it?—There is very little real oakland in the forest, very little. I think that out of the 65,000 acres of the New Forest there is very little really that is fit to carry on oak, to carry, at all events, on oak of 150 years of growth. That has been, years and years ago, occupied by oak plantation. Speaking of this old plantation at the time of William III., the Bentley's, for example, and Salisbury Trench have undoubtedly been planted with oak once or twice in 400 or 500 years, because they are decidedly the best parts

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Sir William Harcourt—continued.

parts of the forest upon which to grow oak; and I should think that the whole of the New Forest that is fit to carry on oak has been planted with oak for 400 or 500 years; and the land very carefully chosen.

518. I remember Mr. Clutton gave evidence; I forget the exact figures, but I think he said that there were 45,000 acres of the New Forest that would starve a Scotch fir?—That is so, I believe.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

519. What is the area of the New Forest?—Sixty-five thousand acres is the area of the New Forest, but the perambulation of the forest is about 93,000 acres. There are 27,000 acres of private lands, either running right into it, or that are actually surrounded by it. The Crown itself has 2,000 acres of freehold. As I say, the whole perambulation of the forest is about 93,000 acres; but the New Forest itself consists of 65,000 acres out of that.

Sir William Harcourt.

520. Sixty-five thousand acres over which the Crown has the forestal rights, do you mean?—Of which the Crown has forestal rights. It has been robbed a good deal of the old forestal rights; they are not quite the forestal rights; they were once.

521. No; the position of the Crown with reference to the New Forest has been greatly altered by the Act of 1877, has it not?—Yes.

522. At that time the Crown had large powers of inclosure for purposes of planting?—They had a running power.

523. A "rolling" power?—I beg your pardon; a "rolling" power.

524. That is to say, as fast as they threw out an old enclosure they were entitled to take as much out of the forest as they had thrown out?—Yes; with this limitation, that one of the Acts confined the new enclosures, after the Deer Removal Act, to a minimum of 300 acres. That necessitated the Crown taking good and bad, and necessitated immense enclosures.

525. Perhaps some of the Members of the Committee may not be acquainted with what happened then. The Deer Removal Act was supposed to have been a sort of bargain between the Crown and the commoners; that is to say, that the Crown was to remove the deer, and in consideration of that it was to have a further power of enclosure of 10,000 acres?—Yes, that was so.

526. And that was supposed to be an equivalent. How much did the Crown really enclose under that power actually?—About 5,500 acres.

527. I thought it was nearly 6,000 acres?—It is about 5,500 acres.

528. Then came the Act of 1877, by which the Crown was prohibited from enclosing any more?—Yes; that Act forbade the Crown to enclose any land which had not already been a subject of enclosure.

529. That, in point of fact, took away from the Crown a power of enclosure to the amount of about 4,000 acres?—I cannot remember as to the

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

exact quantity, but it took away a great deal more, because under the "rolling" power a great deal more might have been planted.

530. It also prohibited the Crown cutting timber, did it not, in the open forest?—I would like to read the section of the Act (a very short one). I have it here. It is a peculiar section, a very short one, and with your permission I will read the section.

Chairman.

531. What Act is this?—This is Section 40 & 41 Vict. c. 121: "With respect to the lands in the forest which are at the time of the passing of this Act inclosed, or previously to such date been inclosed, by virtue of any such Commission as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty from time to time, without the issue of any Commission, when, and in such manner, and as often as Her Majesty seems meet, to cause any part of such lands to be inclosed, planted, laid out, re-planted, or re-inclosed; provided that the whole quantity of such lands under inclosure does not exceed at any one time 16,000 acres. Then it goes on to say, "Provided also that in respects the lands in this section mentioned in cutting timber or trees for improvement of woods, or for sale, care shall be taken to maintain the picturesque character of the forest, and not wholly to level or clear the wood, so as to leave from time to time a sufficient number of the most ornamental trees; and to keep the woods replenished from time to time by promoting the self-sown plants, or by planting trees in the vacant spaces, having regard to the ornamental character as well as the profitable use of the ground." That was the first Act, I think I am right in saying, where the amenity of the forest was considered. I believe it was the very first.

Sir William Harcourt.

532. The policy of that Act was that the New Forest was not to be treated simply as a source of profit, but that regard was to be had to its ornamental character as a national park, if I may use that expression?—The expression "National park" is not, but "ornamental character" is in the Act itself. There is no doubt what was meant by it.

533. I have some knowledge of the authorities of that section. Then what is the amount of acreage in the forest now which the Crown has power over in respect of planting and cutting?—I think the figures are 17,670 acres.

534. That is the whole amount which the Crown has, what you may call ordinary planting and cutting power over, under all the Acts from the time of William III. down to the present time?—That is so.

535. And that again is subject to the restrictions of the Act of 1877 that even with regard to these 16,000 acres you cannot "smack smooth" any more, but you must have regard to the ornamental character of the forest and woods?—That is so.

536. So that they cannot be cropped now

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woods are?—They cannot be treated in is called "high forestry" at all.

1. You cannot treat them as a forest would be treated, by cutting down a portion and re-planting?—No, you cannot.

2. So that in those respects, even as regards 60,000 acres of planted ground, the power of the Crown is greatly restrained?—Only about 10,000 or a little over 10,000 acres are at this present inclosed of the 17,670 acres. Of that we have power to inclose (16,000), only 10,300 at this moment, I think, are inclosed. The whole of that ground is not by any means planted; but that 17,670 acres is the whole of the space which the Crown could inclose up to 16,000 acres.

3. When you speak of ground inclosed you include woods like Ocknells and so on that have been thrown upon them?—I am not familiar with Ocknells. I am not aware whether it is one of the inclosures thrown open.

4. Take Bentley's?—Those are thrown open inclosures. I do not include those in the 10,300.

5. Do you include them in the 17,670?—Yes, they are in the 17,670 acres and in the limit of 16,000 acres. We have 10,300 acres of land of which we can inclose 10,000. We actually have at this moment inclosed a little over 10,000.

6. Then that is, practically speaking, the whole of ground out of which you can make a profit at all for the purposes of forestry?—That is so; that is the whole of it.

7. As regards the rest of the forest, the remaining 45,000 acres, the rights of the Crown, the exception of gravel and so forth are they nominal?—That is so.

8. The whole profit, such as it is, goes to the commoners and you have no power of engaging for the purpose of planting timber or of any kind upon it?—We have no power from it at all except little dues of one kind and another; I beg your pardon, we have the sporting right. The practice there is to grant licenses, single license, 20 l., double license, 30 l. We made in that year 860 l. from sporting licenses.

9. Out of that you pay the keepers?—Out of that we pay the keepers; and we paid about 10,000 l. for the preservation of game besides the keepers' wages. The keepers' business is to look after the forest as caretakers, and not only to look after the game.

10. Therefore it would be a mistake to treat the management of the forest in the hands of the Crown as 60,000 acres for purposes of profit?—That is only.

11. It is really, as you say, only about 16,000 acres?—Yes; the rest of it is a source of expense to the Crown.

12. The rest of the forest practically belongs to the public?—It belongs to the gentlemen who own the property in the neighbourhood of the forest, and to the commoners, the men who have rights in the forest.

3—2.

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

549. And everyone who visits it?—Yes, as to enjoyment; but the commoners get the profit in the shape of user. The public obtain a certain amount of pleasure from it.

Mr. Samuelson.

550. I should like to ask one or two questions about the free miners. The free miners' rights are very ancient indeed, are they not?—Yes, and when their history begins is unknown.

551. Could you tell us very shortly how far they go back?—To one of the Edwards. I forget at this moment which it is, but it is either Edward the First or Edward the Third. Certainly it is as far back as Edward the First, because the free miners supplied a contingent for the siege of Berwick I think in the reign of Edward the First, so it must go back as far as that.

552. At any rate from time immemorial the free miners seem to have had the right of getting coal and ironstone?—From the time of the English kings. The grant was a grant from an English king.

553. And they are confirmed by Act of Parliament, are they not?—"Regulated" perhaps would better express it; by an Act of Parliament, since 1841, or 1838.

554. They attach very great importance to these rights, do they not?—The free miners have a very strong attachment to their rights.

555. Do you think they also regard these rights as having some business value attached to them, as well as viewing them as sentimental rights?—They have I am afraid rather an exaggerated idea of their pecuniary value, but beyond that pecuniary value they have a very great attachment even to the mere name of "free miner," that is to say, the right to hold it.

556. You have never heard of any willingness on their part to dispose of their rights to the Crown for a sum of money out and out?—I have never heard of it except at an extravagant price; and not even then the whole of the right. With regard to a portion of the gales which would not have put an end to the right of the free miners, they might be willing to sell to the Crown, but at an exorbitant price.

557. It would require an Act of Parliament, would it not?—A Bill was actually introduced into Parliament to do the thing with regard to a certain number of deep gales by my predecessor, Sir Henry Loch. It was exceedingly badly received by the free miners and their friends.

558. Was that after the report of the Committee in 1854?—Yes. It was about 1882 or 1883. Sir Henry Loch merely proposed to get rid of the free miners' rights in 42 of the deep gales, because it seemed impossible under the then existing arrangement that the coal would ever be worked without this process being gone through; this proposal was that a certain compensation should be given to the free miners on account of the loss of their rights in those deep gales, that half of that should be paid by the Crown and half by the galees.

559. The colliery owners?—The colliery owners, as it were; but the colliery owners after

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Mr. Samuelson—continued.

after agreeing to that and offering all the support in their power did not, I believe, move one little finger to help him when the thing came to discussion.

560. Was any figures or sum named?—£. 5,000.

561. Is it not possible that the free miners from the sale of the lease of a single gale (as they are held now), might get as large a sum as that?—I should like to hear that they were going to get it; but that would be a very different thing to what existed at that time. What you are speaking of now is a combination of four different gales in the forest. The position is altered altogether with regard to that one gale.

562. You do not think that at present the idea of the free miners would be at all favourable to receiving compensation for their rights from the Crown?—As far as I know, it would not be.

563. Are the Woods and Forest Office anxious at present to keep on those terms, or are they perfectly satisfied with the present state of affairs?—We are endeavouring at this moment to get over the difficulties that the position and rights of the free miners cause or have hitherto caused. We think that we have an opportunity just now (it may turn out good or it may turn out bad) to get the coal worked without infringing the rights of the free miners. I explained to the Committee at the last meeting of the Committee what had been done in the way of uniting four large gales, the smallness of the areas being one of the difficulties, no capitalist being willing to undertake such an expense as is necessary there except over a largish area. I took advantage of being able to forfeit four of the largest deep gales to unite them; and those have been galed to one man, representing 174 free miners, under the circumstances I explained to the Committee at the last meeting. There it remains. If the free miners who are now interested in that gale can persuade financiers to work the thing for them, the free miners' rights need not be interfered with at all.

564. Do you think that the free miners' rights act in the restriction of actual output of coal in the forest at the present time?—I would rather you would ask that question of the deputy gaveller.

565. The Chairman said something about the sale of the Forest of Dean. As regards the surface it is very beautiful country, is it not?—Yes.

566. In the same way as the New Forest?—I would rather not express my opinion as to the comparative beauties of the forests under my charge.

567. It is a very beautiful place, and a place of resort, is it not?—There are very beautiful features in the Dean Forest, very beautiful, and it is a place of great resort by the public no doubt. Railway communication is better than it was; and a very large number of people now visit the Dean Forest, as they visit the New Forest.

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

568. It might be said, as of the New Forest, that it is a kind of public pleasure ground, is it not?—No doubt about it; it is that to a certain extent.

569. Then if the property were sold, or portions of it, its value in that respect would probably be destroyed?—Its amenity would be destroyed unless the particular person who bought it bought it as the Crown is doing. If disafforested and sold, it could be only sold for one of two purposes, either to remain as it is now, or to be broken down and grubbed up, and so on, and turned to other uses.

570. It might be bought as a large game preserve and do a great deal of damage to the neighbourhood, might it not?—I should be sorry to buy it as a game preserve.

571. I mean if it were for sale. As regards the privileges of the inhabitants of the parish to "turn out," do you think that they have very little use of the right of commonage?—I would like you to ask the deputy surveyor James Campbell, about that.

Mr. Henchage.

572. When you were speaking of the Forest, the High Meadow, and the New Forest, you gave the acreage, but you stated that a very large quantity of it was waste land. It becomes of that waste land, and what do you mean by it?—The pasturage. It is pasture in common by the inhabitants of the surrounding district.

573. Is no rent paid for that?—No rent is paid ever. There are small dues in the New Forest, none in Dean Forest.

574. Then this waste land does not form part of the forest, or is it all fenced up?—The forest as woodland. The "Forest" does not imply "wood" altogether. It is a common forest covering a certain area. There may be no wood there at all.

575. Then you would not be entitled to enclose this (what you call waste land) with timber in order to make it profitable, would you not?—A little while ago I was explaining to the Committee that our power in the New Forest was limited to planting 17,670 acres. Within that we could only plant if we choose to do it 10,300 acres, and we have actually only inclosed 10,300 acres. We have no power whatever to enclose those 17,670 acres to plant.

576-7. Therefore, as a matter of fact, is the waste land belonging to the Crown, but the rights which people in the neighbourhood have in it?—That is to say the Crown has the forestal rights until the Deer Removal Act of 1851. At that time there were a number of deer belonging to the Crown in the New Forest.

Sir William Harcourt.

578. At all events in the time of William the Third, there was a limited amount of land reserved by Statute to be enclosed for the growth of timber for the Navy?—That is so.

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Sir William Harcourt—continued.

9. But the rest of the forest was subject to right of a turn out by the whole of the tenants, which is a larger right than the manor or forestal right of common; that is to say, the whole of the persons within the purlieus of the forest could turn out over the whole forest, is that so?—Yes, that is so. Might I suggest, I think, the Committee would like to inquire Mr. Gerald Lascelles on the subject of the New Forest. I mean his knowledge is much more accurate than mine upon that.

10. I think any of the Committee who wish to know the facts with reference to it would find it very fully set out, would they not, in the report of the Committee of 1877?—That would be 1874 or 1875, I think.

11. I am referring to the Committee that sat under the Act of 1877?—It was from a Report of the Committee that the Act sprang. Therefore I should think the Committee sat in 1875.

12. However, there is the Blue Book in which all the facts will be found about the New Forest?—Yes.

Mr. Heneage.

13. What I want to arrive at is this: that the Crown have no real pecuniary property in waste land either for purposes of income or purposes of sale?—No, they have not, except the soil. One of the forestal rights is the sale of gravel, and so on; the minerals belong to the tenant.

14. Therefore, when you say that the extent of the Dean Forest is 18,710 acres, the High Meadow 64,834 acres, and the New Forest 64,834 acres; is it merely technical, it is not reality?—As income goes, it is not reality.

15. You have no property in it?—The right in the soil is in the Crown; the old forestal rights were in the Crown. What has been taken away from the Crown is the right as regards the deer, that is all that has been taken away from the forestal rights.

16. Suppose it were to turn out that this was all valuable agricultural lands, or valuable for fruit trees, you would not be able to turn it to that use in order to get an income from it?—We could not. I would like to have the opportunity to question to say this, that a little elbow room would be an exceedingly desirable thing in the New Forest; for example, in an instance like this: There was a strong desire on the part of some of the inhabitants of Lyndhurst, to have the place properly drained. It is out of my power as Commissioner of Woods to do that, but to grant a piece of ground at will for drainage works. Those who are opposed to the drainage of Lyndhurst immediately took hold of it and said, Oh, we are not going to borrow a considerable sum of money upon such a tenure as that, we want to buy the thing outright. The Government Board also object to allowing the Local Authority to borrow upon such a tenure as that. I do not know that the Local Government Board would press it much itself, but they are opposed to it do; and the result is that there is no drainage at all. Now it is a thousand pities, with a want of that sort, of a little miserable drainage.

Mr. Heneage—continued.

bog land which could be used for that purpose, that nobody has power to grant it for a longer term than "at will."

Sir William Harcourt.

587. It is always possible to get powers for these purposes by an Act of Parliament, or for limited purposes of improvement; and in point of fact you have granted land for a cemetery at Lyndhurst, have you not?—That comes within our powers; under 10 Geo. 4, we have the power to do that.

588. It is perfectly easy to get powers by a Special Act, as you do under the Railway Acts, giving portions of the lands for special purposes?—Is it not rather a cumbrous thing to have to go for an Act of Parliament to grant half-an-acre of land for outfall sewage works for Lyndhurst.

589. If you had general powers to dispose of the land, there is a little suspicion, is there not, as to what you might do?—There is, no doubt.

Mr. Heneage.

590. As a matter of fact, this large amount of acreage is a myth, and the income is derived from a very small portion of the acreage you mention?—That is so.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

591. Do I understand you aright that the Crown has only, in ownership, in Wales about 5,000 acres?—Only 500 in absolute ownership.

592. That would be set out, would it not, in the statement that has been asked for by Mr. Williams?—Yes.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

593. Can you give me any idea of the capital or saleable value of the rights of the Crown in the Forest of Dean and the New Forest?—No, I could not.

594. I suppose they are very much in excess of what the income would represent?—What the value would be.

595. The saleable value; the capital value?—I doubt that very much. To sell the Dean Forest, for example, implies that you find a purchaser, and that purchaser would take into consideration what was the condition. He would either have to hold the Woods as the Crown is holding them, and wait for his profit, as the Crown has to wait, or he would have to cut the whole thing down and grub it up. Both processes are rather expensive, and I doubt very much whether you would find anyone to purchase except for amenities sake; to build a house, or something of that kind.

596. You do not think its saleable value is more than is represented by, say, 30 years' purchase on its net income, not its gross income?—I should like to go into that question a little closer before I gave an answer; but the point is really this: can a greater margin be made than we are making. If you were to purchase such a thing as the Dean Forest all these expenses would have to be calculated. The first thing any purchaser would do, I should think, would be to come to the Office of Woods and

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[Cont.]

Sir Joseph Bailey—continued.

say, "What can you make out of this thing," and offer a price accordingly; but I should doubt very much whether the British public would stand such a proposal as that of cutting down the Dean Forest.

597. That is not the question I asked you; I wanted to know what the capital value was?—That I cannot say.

598. Whether it is desirable is a different question altogether?—We should have to have it valued by experts, by surveyors, to be able to answer that question, I think. There is no mature wood; the woods vary from 20 up to 75 or 80 years' (at the outside, 80 years) growth. All those things have to be valued if they are to be bought as a growing crop, either for cutting down or carrying on as a growing crop. Then there are the common rights to be considered, and the free miners' rights. There are a large number of small collieries. It would be very difficult, I think, to obtain a purchaser under those circumstances.

Chairman.

599. Have the public (I mean the general public) an undisturbed right over all parts of the New Forest except those that are actually enclosed?—Yes, perfectly.

600. There is no law of trespass?—No, none whatever.

601. The commoners' right is simply a right of pasturage?—A right of pasturage and pannage.

602. He has no power to erect a fence and exclude the public from any portion?—None whatever; not even the Crown has the right to enclose any parts except those which they have the power to enclose under Acts of Parliament.

603. Taking *Sir William Harcourt's* words, the New Forest is really a public park, belonging to the Crown, vested in the Crown, over which the public has undisputed rights, subject to the right of certain commoners to have the pasturage of that public park?—Yes, that is so.

604. What constitutes a commoner?—The possession of land.

605. I want to ascertain whether they are a limited body; whether they are a body that can be increased; whether they are parishioners, or whether they are owners or occupiers?—The common rights are attached to the land.

606. The land, as I understand, belonging to the Crown?—No; I am speaking of land that does not belong to the Crown.

607. Adjoining land?—I explained a little while ago that there were certain estates absolutely surrounded by the New Forest.

609. You say the Surveyor of the New Forest would give us this information accurately?—Yes, *Mr. Lascelles* would.

610. I should like to know what are the legal rights of everybody in respect to the New Forest?—The legal rights of all persons who have rights of common you mean.

611. Who are the persons who have these rights?—I forget what the number is.

612. I mean the class. I do not want their names or number, but the class, and how the class is constituted. On Tuesday you told us that in the Forest of Dean anybody that was

Chairman—continued.

born in a certain hundred had certain rights. That was a free miner.

613. Well that seems to be the most valuable part of that property. You told us that anybody born within a certain area had those rights, so in the New Forest?—It is nothing to do with his birth; it is all to do with the holding of certain property. I remember this; at all events there are 65,000 acres to which common rights are attached in and around the forest. Out of 65,000 acres eight individuals hold 31,000 acres. So far I am certain my memory serves me.

Sir William Harcourt.

614. How do you mean 'hold 31,000 acres'? Out of the 65,000 acres to which the common rights are attached, eight individuals are attached to 31,000 acres.

Chairman.

615. You mean that they have common rights over 31,000 acres?—The common rights are attached to 31,000 acres.

Mr. Jackson.

616. Thirty-one thousand acres of what?—Land.

Sir William Harcourt.

617. The difference between the forest as I understand it, and the manorial right, is that if the small squatter has a field in respect of which he has got the right to turn out cattle, the cattle can go over the whole of the forest, and that so?—Undoubtedly.

618. Not confined to any particular part of the forest?—Therefore every man who has a common right has a common right over the whole of the forest?—Undoubtedly. What I want to explain was this: that these rights are attached to lands, and the extent of that land to which they are attached is 65,000 acres; not the forest at all.

Mr. Jackson.

619. Will you explain to what the rights are attached?—The forest itself happens to be of very same figure, 65,000 acres; but inside the forest there is freehold land to the extent of 65,000 acres, to which rights of common are attached. Out of those 65,000 acres, 34,000 acres belong to eight individuals; and I think that the holdings below 30 l. in value only 3,000 acres. I think 3,000 acres is all that belong to the smaller men. There are 15,000 acres that belong to about 15 individuals; that is to say, they own about 1,000 acres each.

Chairman.

620. Whether a man has a forest right in respect of 100, or 1,000, or 10,000 acres, the right is the same; he could send his cattle over the whole of the forest?—His right is not unlimited as to the number of cattle, and so on.

621. What regulates the number?—That is decided by the Commissioners under the Act of 1851, chapter 76, Section 10: "whereas divers of Her Majesty's subjects have common of pasture, common of turbary, common of estovers, and certain rights of

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

mage, and to dig gravel, sand and marl, and cut fern, heath, and furze in and upon the Forest: And whereas great doubt and uncertainty exists as to the extent of the said rights or claims, and as to the persons entitled to exercise the same: And whereas it is expedient to provide for a due registration of the said rights, and of the persons so entitled, and an easy and economical mode of adjudicating upon and finally settling all such claims: Be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues for the time being, and they are hereby required within three calendar months after the passing of this Act, to cause notice to be given in the 'London Gazette,' and in two or three newspapers usually published and circulated in the county of Southampton, requiring all persons having or claiming any right of common

Chairman—continued.

of pasture, right of common of turbary, right of common of estovers, or any right of pannage, or to take or dig gravel, sand, or marl, or cut fern, heath, or furze, in, upon, or over the said forest, to deliver such claims in writing to the verderers for the time being of the forest, at a meeting to be held by the said verderers for that purpose on a day to be specified in the said notice, the said day so specified for the said meeting not being less than six nor more than nine calendar months from the day of insertion of the said notice in the 'London Gazette.'

622. That is an Act providing that a list should be made of the commoners and their rights; we will get that from Mr. Lascelles, we will not trouble you with that now?—Under this Act the Commissioners inquired into the rights, and their decisions were carried out by a register.

Sir JAMES CAMPBELL, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

63. WHAT is the correct title of your office in connection with the Dean Forest?—Deputy Surveyor.

64. Will you tell the Committee what your duties and powers are?—My duties are to oversee the whole of the forest, and to order the proper way of thinning and cutting down and using the produce; to prevent encroachments so far as I can, with the assistance, of course, of officers, and others under me; and generally to manage the forest in the same way, or in rather a different way, that a gentleman's agent does in managing his estate.

65. You have nothing to do, then, with the mines; your responsibility and duty is entirely to the forest?—No, I have nothing to do with the mines as mines. I have to do with the letting of lands, for the better working of mines, that is, more, perhaps, with regard to the timber. The deputy gaveller decides whether it is proper to let land for a particular purpose; then I have to see that it does not interfere with anybody else, and that the rent, if there happens to be any on it, should be properly measured and the value paid.

66. The only power to let the land, as I understand, in the Dean Forest, is land for various purposes?—Colliery and mineral purposes generally.

67. You cannot let land for any agricultural purpose?—No.

68. Is any portion of the Dean Forest inclosed in a manner similar to that which Mr. Culley has been stating as to the New Forest?—Yes; at this moment there are, I think, under 100 acres inclosed of land, besides some hundreds of acres which are freehold belonging to the Crown.

69. Are the amenities of the Dean Forest subject to the same preservation as those of the New Forest?—It is entirely in the hands of the Crown, under the Commissioners of Woods; and they manage the amenities in the same kind of way as they are managed in the New Forest.

103.

Chairman—continued.

630. You would have regard to the beauty of the district?—Oh, yes; we take very great care of that.

631. You would regard that as of as great importance as making a profit out of the sale of the timber?—Yes, we do.

632. I suppose in former times you sold the timber for the Navy; now there is no sale to the Navy?—There is none fit for the Navy now. There was a great slaughter, as Mr. Culley remarked, some years ago, say from 1840 to 1860 perhaps; but chiefly about the middle of that time, about 1848, there was a great slaughter of timber, and I am sorry to say a great deal of waste, because it was cut down with the idea of the Navy taking it. They did not require it, and did not take it, and it was sold, a good deal of it, at a sacrifice.

633. Now that is consumed, there is no timber to any appreciable amount to cut down?—None, or very little now. Decayed trees we cut down, or decaying trees, for fencing purposes, gates, and so on, and buildings.

634. Have you any suggestions to make to the Committee with reference to the forest?—No. There is some difficulty on a subject that Mr. Culley has spoken about; that is, common rights, which are a little complicated, and I do not know whether it would not be desirable that something should be done about it.

635. Do you mean common rights or mineral rights?—Common rights. For example, there has been a good deal of heart-burning in the forest among the ratepayers. They consider that the Crown does not pay the proper proportion of rates, for example, towards the various purposes for which rates are required. Of course everybody knows that commonable lands are not rateable at all. There are some thousands of acres, perhaps, of lands that are covered with timber, but are not inclosed. No rates are paid upon these, neither are any rates paid upon the rights of common. I do not make any suggestion about the matter. I merely mention the fact that, if there is a grievance, I should suggest that

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Chairman—continued.

that in these days it would be best that all rights of common should be valued and everybody pay their proportion, and in that way the Crown would no doubt pay upon the value of the timber growing upon common land. Then I think everybody else ought to pay in the same way. That is a mere suggestion of my own. I have often thought of it, because it has been the subject of a good deal of heart-burning. The Crown does pay rates now upon their inclosed lands for the growth of timber, and pay quite their full proportion, perhaps a shade more than other people do upon woodlands.

636. Does it rest with you, or does it rest with the Commissioners, to settle what land is granted for public purposes in the Dean Forest?—That is specified under sundry Acts of Parliament, the Mining Acts for mineral purposes, and other Acts for ecclesiastical purposes, we will say, or school purposes. These are already settled by Act of Parliament.

637. Can you tell us what your power is for ecclesiastical purposes?—It is limited to so many acres for a district, we will say. The 10 Geo. 4 is the Act under which it is done. Under that Act the Crown makes the grant.

638. The Crown has power to make the grant of land in the Dean Forest for ecclesiastical purposes?—Yes.

639. Limited to a certain quantity?—Yes.

640. Do you mean by "ecclesiastical purposes" for the Church of England only?—Yes, it is limited at present to that.

641. Then there is, I believe, a public grievance in the Dean Forest; that land is granted by the Commissioners for the erection of churches and schools in connection with churches, and that it is not granted either for board schools or Nonconformist schools or for Nonconformist chapels?—Yes, that is so; there is no power to grant under any Act in such cases.

Sir William Harcourt.

642. What was the date of the Act under which your powers were given?—It is the 10 Geo. 4, c. 50.

Chairman.

643. Has any representation been made to you on behalf of the inhabitants desiring a change in that respect?—Yes; not lately, but I have had a good many representations to that effect, in the course of the last 30 years; and of course I can only refer them to the Commissioners or to Parliament, and tell them they must get a Bill passed in order to legalise it; otherwise we have no power. The usual thing is that they have to buy it. They have to buy it at whatever price land is sold in the neighbourhood.

644. Then you have power to sell?—We sell (under the Act of 1843, I think it is) some portions of land of no use whatever for the growth of timber. I am obliged to give a certificate to that effect; it is the same Act as the other. The words of it are, I think: "Lands in small quantities may be sold that are either adjoining to, or intermixed with or surrounded by other lands not the property of the Crown, and which are not fit for the growth of timber." So that I have

Chairman—continued.

to certify in every case that it comes within the Act of 10 Geo. 4, c. 50, s. 98. The exact title it comes back to my mind now.

645. Are there any commonable rights over this?—Yes, there are commonable rights.

646. How are they extinguished?—I do not know. The Act extinguishes them to that extent.

647. It is done under the Act?—Yes.

648. And I suppose the Commissioners would have no power in a sale of these outlying pieces of land to consider the object for which the sale was made, if it was a charitable one; they would have to take the full price?—They would have to take the full price, but virtually these pieces are mostly sold to the adjoining owners of little patches of land which are enfranchised under this Act. It is generally an addition to the gardens, or perhaps they buy a bit for the benefit of their relatives. There is no hard-and-fast rule about it, with this exception, that I think no land can be sold above the value of 1,000 £, if I remember right. It is mentioned in the Act that no sale should exceed 1,000 £. In the same way, for the making of inclosures at the time when the lands were being planted, we could exchange these patches under this Act. When there were encroachments in the forest we could give an equivalent of land, and I believe value in money besides, for the construction of buildings, or anything which was of any specific value, so as to have our inclosures without any freehold patches in the middle of them. I have done so repeatedly since I have been in the Dean Forest. It was done very much before I went there. Of course the largest proportion of the inclosures were made before my time.

Mr. Samuelson.

649. The foresters avail themselves very considerably of their privilege; that is to say, the inhabitants of the hundred of St. Briavells they have any rights; do not you think so?—I think nine-tenths of those who do avail themselves of the rights have no rights at all. I have no hesitation in saying that; but, as nobody interferes with them, they use the "common rights."

650. The right is availed of?—The right is availed of, but not much by those who have actual legal rights of common; that is, those who are the freeholders and tenants of certain parishes in the hundred of St. Briavells; but many of those people who now, what one may call, "squat" in the forest, or have done so within the last 10 years, have usurped those rights and use them.

651. Have not the squatters the right, living in the neighbourhood of St. Briavells?—No, not at all. At the time that right was decided there were no squatters. In fact the squatters in the forest are within the last century, or very little more, and it was not parochialised until 1841 or 1842, I think. I do not get exactly what the year the parochialisation of the forest was; but it was 1841 or 1842, about that time. There were no parishes in the forest then.

652. But you do not attempt in any way to interfere with those people who do avail themselves of the right?—The Crown does not

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Mr. Samuelson—continued.

so far as may be necessary to keep up a power over it.

Do not you think these squatters think have a kind of prescriptive right, as they never been interfered with?—I cannot say whether they do or not. They sometimes say so, but when the question is put to them, and they are asked to show you the right, they cannot.

At any rate a good many people are taking advantage of the right to “turn out”?—They are.

And there are a large number of sheep turned out?—There are a large number of sheep turned out.

And other animals?—Yes; in the summer a good many animals are turned out.

You say you have the right of selling portions of land to those who are limited owners or freeholders?—Yes, under the Act of 1833.

Do they avail themselves largely of it?—They did at one time, but since trade has been so depressed there has been no demand for land at all. I think I have sold two pieces in the last few years.

You do not have to refuse applicants who wish to add to their gardens?—Not at all. The applicants we have had to refuse are those who want land that do not come within the meaning of that section I quoted a little while ago.

These squatters cannot get houses if they have not got them already, do you mean?—They may buy them. I have sold many small pieces, one or two perches up to a quarter of an acre perhaps, for that purpose.

What are the rights of inclosure in the Dean Forest?—We are entitled to keep in under the Act, 10,000 acres.

You can turn out a certain portion, and leave another portion?—And take in another portion.

According to your discretion?—According to our discretion. Had the Dean Forest been the same as the New Forest, without any special difficulties in the way, probably a good deal more would have been inclosed by this time, but the great proportion of what is left is left out for the working of the mines. The Act gives 11,000. I had forgotten the quantity; 11,000 we have the power to inclose all at once.

What is the smaller oak which is principally cut and sold?—Chiefly the thicker parts of timber, chemical wood and charcoal.

The larger proportion is required for pit timber, is it not?—Yes, the larger proportion.

As regards the fees you receive for sporting rights, they are very small indeed in the Dean Forest?—There is very little game in it. It is a five-guinea license. I think we have not let more than about half-a-dozen in the Dean Forest. We have not let as many as that, but only three in the year.

Do you know what the reason of that is; that in the New Forest the sporting licenses are a considerable income, a good many hundred pounds?—For this reason. In the first place

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

there is very little game; and in the next place it is not the slightest use to preserve it, because I should think that every born forester is a poacher by nature; therefore we think it far better not to encourage it, because even since I have been at Dean Forest keepers and others have been absolutely killed by poachers. One man certainly was killed since I went there; that was a policeman. They took to shooting the keepers when they were not allowed to shoot the deer, and it was thought better to give the deer up.

668. You suggested that commonage in the case of uninclosed land should be rated; do you think that would be a popular arrangement?—I do not think it would be a popular arrangement; at the same time it is the only way of getting over the difficulty.

669. Do not you think the commoners would say it was no longer their right, if they had to pay for it?—I do not know that they would say that, because it would be the same law of property. Of course, a man's house is his own, just as much as his common rights; and he might as well object to the one as to the other. I do not see any difference.

Sir William Harcourt.

670. The Dean Forest is much better oak-growing soil than the New Forest, is it not?—Yes, every acre of it will grow good oak.

671. Fine oak?—Fine oak.

672. Is there a ripening crop of good timber going on there?—Yes; there are one or two plantations, not of any great size, that were made about 100 years ago, or 103 or 104 perhaps, and the majority of those that succeeded were planted between 1808 and 1815 or 1816, speaking from recollection.

673. When, speaking generally, should you expect that you would get a fall of timber again in the Forest of Dean?—Taking it as a rule, taking all the plantations for the purpose of an average, they are about half grown; that is to say, we will take it that 70 years or thereabout is about the average age of all the plantations I speak of; in another 70 years they ought to be very good timber. I may mention to the Committee that when I first went to Dean Forest there happened to have been a great slaughter of the old trees, and there was one that lay opposite the gate at the entrance to my house, which struck me as a more valuable tree than some others, and I wondered why it had been rejected for the Navy; I examined it thoroughly, and I found that about two-thirds of the way up there was a hole in a decayed branch a long way into it, but all the rest of it was perfectly sound timber, and I did eventually send it all to the Navy except this piece. I think, speaking from recollection, that I sent 500 cubic feet of that individual tree to the Navy, and the piece that was cut out was 60 or 70 feet in itself; that is, just a bit cut out. That tree was 198 years old at that time, and was slightly past maturity, but still it was perfectly useful and good, and was used at Pembroke, I know.

674. So that you would have really fine trees of 200 years old?—Yes; well past maturity. It was

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was in Charles the Second's time that they were planted.

675. You know the trees in the New Forest; they are very inferior?—In the New Forest they are very inferior. There are individual places where there are very good trees; but as a rule they are not so good as in Dean Forest.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

676. Am I right in supposing that not only the management of the wood, but the sales of the wood are under your superintendence?—Entirely.

677. Then every sale, either by public auction or private contract, is arranged under your direction?—Yes, entirely.

678. I see, in looking down the amount realised last year, that a very large proportion of it was realised by private sales?—Yes. We never have any auctions now at all. I gave them up many years ago because I found it was merely money wasted. There is what is in modern times called a "corner" amongst everybody; the result was that I never sold any timber. I will give an instance showing the result of the very first sale I ever attended in the Dean Forest. There was a lot of what is called rejected Navy timber offered for sale. I was offered before the auction began (it was an auction in those days) 2,000 *l.* for it to save trouble. Of course I thought it was worth more than that, but I could not say exactly, and I refused the offer; and I do not think above one lot was sold at the auction. I was so struck with the whole thing, having had some experience in oak timber before, that I wrote to Mr. Gore, who was then the only Commissioner at the moment, and asked him to find a practical shipwright to come from a dockyard to select Navy timber out of that which was lying on the ground. I do not remember the quantities at this moment, nor of course the values, because that was in 1854, but to the best of my recollection 7,000 *l.* worth of that timber was sent to the dockyards; and I actually sold the rubbish that was left for 2,000 *l.* to one man; so that 9,000 *l.* was got for what I was offered 2,000 *l.* for on the morning of the sale.

679. Then your sales are effected by public tender?—Public tender for large quantities, and by private tender for what we know pretty well the absolute value of, and that we can get. I generally, as a rule, get a very fair price; the price of the day. Of course it is a very bad price just now, when I speak of it as "the price of the day."

680. It is improving just now, is it not?—A little. It is beginning to improve.

681. Gloucester is rather a large centre of the timber trade, is it not?—It is rather a large centre.

682. And I suppose you find your purchasers of timber in Gloucester really?—The last I sold went to Swansea, and I have sold several times to Birmingham and Worcester; and in two previous years, or three previous years, I sold timber to go to Newcastle. People are coming down to Dean Forest, because of the good quality of the timber which we have there for sale.

683. What was the amount of timber in High Meadow?—That was sold by public tender.

684. The tenders attract purchasers from other

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

places?—Yes, all over the kingdom. I have applications for tenders from all parts of England, very seldom from Scotland, but I have had from Ireland, and, of course, it depends upon great many things which is the highest tender, what they are going to do with it, and how they are going to take it.

685. Turning to Dean Forest proper I notice a large part of your sales are of cordwood, or stackwood?—Yes.

686. Is that oak?—Yes, chiefly.

687. That goes to the collieries, does it not, a good deal of it. We do not use the word "stackwood" in Dean Forest. The cordwood we measure by the cords; so many cubic feet. There may be cordwood on stocks 12 inches in diameter at one part, and it may be but two inches in another. It all depends upon that.

688. A large sale of it is for pitwood, a large portion. When the last Committee was in 1854, I think, I was able to show good prices, then that I was getting for pitwood, pitwood, 30 *s.* to 40 *s.* a cord. Latterly I have got more than 20 *s.*, and for the ordinary pitwood, such as for charcoal, I used to get about that time 20 *s.*, 33 *s.* or 34 *s.*, or 35 *s.*, occasionally according to locality; and I have been very lately to be able to get 8 *s.* 6 *d.*

689. The demand for pitwood is very large, and growing in the whole of South Wales, is it not?—Yes.

690. To what do you attribute the difference?—Is it that it has been replaced by larch?—It has been replaced by a good deal of timber coming from foreign countries. I do not think it will be the case in one locality. I have known individuals sending away 100 tons of coal to Spain and coming back loaded with timber; they pay the one by the other to a certain extent.

691. But there is a very large demand, and a very good price, as I understand, is there not for larch timber?—Yes; but we have very little larch in the Dean Forest now.

692. I understand that the whole area available for timber growing is very fine oak timber land?—Fine oak timber land, but it is a beautiful larch to a certain extent.

693. You have tried the experiment?—Yes, always plant larch when I have any plant going on, as a matter of course.

694. You have tried the experiment of planting larch on ground which was good for larch?—Yes.

695. The same with us. There is a good coat, if I may call it so, of soil before you get to the clay which nourishes oak; and that will grow larch very well up to a certain size; and in some of the alluvial parts, in the bottom of the valleys, and so on, and on the brows of the hills, we sometimes grow very fine larch indeed. I think you may take it that at least two-thirds of the Forest of Dean will grow very good larch.

696. Is that so?—I think that is so.

697. No doubt you have addressed your mind to it, but as far as my experience goes it is that in South Wales (I am speaking from personal experience) it is found that land which is not worth more than 3 *s.* or 4 *s.* an acre will grow larch admirably?—It will; that I know.

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8. And in about 18 to 25 years we turned a de which was worth only 3 s. to 4 s., and times only 1 s. an acre, into a larch planta—
—Yes, quite so.

9. And dealing with it as you should deal it, as Mr. Culley very properly said, grow them in that way, distributing the cost of gement, and crediting yourselves with the g, after seven or eight years we find we can a good 1 l. an acre out of the hillside?—
no doubt; but I should not recommend that done in the Dean Forest, because I think in some parts of it, perhaps rather more one-third, it would not grow the big larch, I may call larch timber. It would grow good larch for pitwood.

10. But that is the profitable wood?—I that; but then you have this great alty in some parts of Dean Forest (and I ought to have mentioned before, I can tell whether it is from the locality or from alness of the original seed), that we have disease.

11. That has shown itself on some of your ations?—It has shown itself, and I have ally observed that it is in the damper soils, e the late frost of the season is uncommonly after the larch has begun to shoot.

12. I daresay you have considered the ques- from a practical point of view; but it does to me that it would be a very important e if you could turn 4,000 or 5,000 acres of o a more profitable use without interfering the amenity or anything else of the forest? ite so. If I had thousands of acres to plant uld insist on planting a large portion of oak. uld plant a sufficient crop of oak, and most rest, larch. I have done that already in small plantations as I have made, and some e trees are just coming to use, and I have em down and sold the larch, at a consider- profit, of course.

13. The expense of maintenance, I suppose, es the whole management of the wood and g it ready for market?—Yes, making it for market.

14. It is not a very good financial balance- that you produce?—No; as I say, when I get some years ago 2 l. for what I can now ly 1 l., and 8 s. 6 d. now for what I used to 0 s., you cannot expect a very good balance- and because labour is higher entirely then. I take it all round that labour is at 3 d. a day higher, or 6 d. in many places, t used to be many years ago, and yet the is so much less that it cuts both ways; the e is burnt at both ends.

Mr. Heneage.

15. You say you have given up sales by auc—
—Yes.

16. That is pretty well given up generally ver the country now, is it not?—Yes, I ve so.

17. Do you ask for tenders before the fall of er, or after it has been felled?—Before the f timber. We now tender it to be sold ing, and cut down by the purchaser.

18. Oh, it is cut down by the purchaser, is It is cut down by the purchaser. We 03.

Mr. Heneage—continued.

measure it standing, and merely advertise, we will say, 500 oak trees in such a place, whatever it may be, and tenders will be received up to a given date, and that is all we do with it; then of course I make my calculations accordingly, and name a sort of value which I think it ought to fetch, and acquaint with Mr. Culley with that, who, with experience of his own, and with experience of other people who are judges, ascer- tains whether my value is correct. And I may say that my value this year was considerably under what I got; but I had no idea when I made it a week or two before the sale that the value would increase so much as it did. I did value it higher than last year, but not to the extent of what we got.

709. Then it is a chance valuation on which you sell the whole lot?—Yes.

710. And you do not ask for tenders at per quantity, and measure it after it is down?—Oh, no; but I may say that a matter of that kind is a matter, of course (shall I say?), of experience. Now, I will give the Committee a curious instance of that. Some ten years ago, I should think, I had a quantity of timber for sale, which I advertised and sold at a very fair price. After the sale had taken place, and the money had been paid and everything had been settled with the Crown, the purchaser, who had purchased from us for the first time in his life (we did not know anything of him before), asked my assistant whether he had any objection to give him his measurements, and he said, "If you will give me on a bit of paper what the gross amount of your quantity in the lot was, I will hand you my book at the same moment, and you look at that, and let us judge how far our measurements are alike." Well, my assistant came to me, and said he would not do it, unless I permitted it. I gave him the permission for this once, and speaking from recollection the quantities were something like this; 20,223 feet, that, I think, was the gross quantity of our measurement.

711. Your calculation, do you mean?—Our calculation, our actual measurement of the timber standing. The purchaser's actual quantity was five feet more than ours; it was 22,228 against my 22,223. I say that was a good fair guide in so large a quantity that we understood the system of measuring timber standing.

712. You stated that the timber is felled?—
By the purchaser.

713. Wait a minute; is it at the cost of the purchaser: that is to say, by your men at the cost of the purchaser, or by his own men?—As a rule, we lend him our men to do that, and he pays them.

714. He repays you what you pay them?—
No; I do not pay them, he pays them. I lend him the Crown men, as many as I can spare, because they have this advantage over strangers, that they are more likely not to damage other timber in throwing the trees down. I do it as a matter of caution, and I did lend several men this year.

715. That is a mere matter of arrangement?—
—It is a mere matter of arrangement.

716. He practically fells them either with his own men or with yours, as he chooses?—As he chooses, and pays everything; it costs the Crown not a farthing.

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717. Can

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Sir J. CAMPBELL.

[Con

Mr. Jackson.

717. Can you say what confers the common rights?—The ownership, or occupation under the owner, of certain lands in certain parishes in the hundred of St. Briavels; that is the original common right basis.

718. You spoke of 11,000 acres being inclosed; what is the total area of the forest?—About 22,000 acres.

719. Then about half is uninclosed and open to the public?—There is more than half uninclosed. I do not think we have much more than 4,000 acres altogether inclosed now.

720. I thought you gave evidence just now that there was 11,000 acres?—We have the power under the Act to inclose 11,000 acres, but we have not exercised that power to the full for this reason, that there is a considerable expense in keeping up the fences and in overlooking the plantations that are inclosed; in fact, when we found that the timber was quite safe from damage by commoners' cattle we threw down the fences, but there was no more land to inclose to make up our quantity.

721. Then, of the 22,000 acres, about 18,000 are open to the public; is that the statement you make?—Yes, about that, I should say.

722. Does that add to the cost of superintendence or management?—It rather diminishes that. When I first went to Dean Forest I think there were 22 woodmen, if I remember rightly, and I have reduced them to 14. Just before I went there were six keepers, and they were reduced at the time I went there to three, and these are, if one may use the expression, as much policemen as anything else, because they are watching and preventing depredations. The woodmen, of course, have the wood in their own districts under their charge to prevent its being stolen, and the keepers overlook all, all over the district, and prevent encroachments on land.

723. Then you think the number of woodmen who are engaged are not in excess of the requirements?—No, I think not. I have often thought whether it was possible to reduce another or two, but really there are so many inhabitants of the forest; there is an inhabitant to every acre in it; that is too many to leave to their own devices any more than one can help.

724. Then that answer would rather go to show that the fact of their being open to the public does increase the requirement and the cost of

Mr. Jackson—continued.

looking after them?—Yes. At the time before I went to Dean Forest there were many inclosures newly made; a certain at all events newly made, and they required men to look after the fences, and they were called woodmen labourers in those days. I did all that with their own hands, except what was a large job; but there being no long same mileage of fences to keep up, I took the duties off the woodmen in connection with that, and gave them an extra quantity of work over.

725. When you receive tenders for timber for wood, do the tenders come to you?—No, they go to Mr. Culley.

726. You report to Mr. Culley what you estimate of the value is?—Yes.

727. And he has that with him when he receives the tenders?—Yes, when he opens the tenders.

728. And he decides whose tender is accepted?—Well, he sends the tenders to the case a good tender might be made by a purchaser, or anything of that kind; he knows that before the fact of acceptance.

729. Is it the custom to accept the tender?—Unless there is any special reason, we do not remember an instance of the highest tender not having been accepted. We have a power. We allow nothing to go until it is accepted for. We have a lien on the whole concern until the timber is on the ground; therefore, as we have never lost anything by it. I had a deal of difficulty one year by a man becoming bankrupt, but after a time the money was got.

730. I see that you get 600 l. for flittering by whom is that bark stripped?—That is sold by us.

731. The wood from which that is taken is sold beforehand?—No. That we cut up and it is useful into pit props and other kinds of wood. We sell that for poles, or flittering, and call them.

732. Is that bark sold on tender also?—That is sold on tender.

733. Public tender?—Public tender.

734. How much did you get for it this year?—I think it averaged about 3 l. 5 s. per ton.

735. In the wood?—In the wood; 20 s. the ton; weighed in the wood.

Mr. THOMAS FORSTER BROWN, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

736. You are the Deputy Gaveller of the Forest of Dean?—I am.

737. Technically, the Gaveller of the Forest of Dean is the First Commissioner of Woods?—He is; and by the Act of Parliament his deputy must be some person skilled in mining.

738. How long have you held the office of deputy gaveller?—Since March 1865.

739. You have held the office then and been in the Forest of Dean 24 years?—Yes.

740. Were you employed previously under the Crown?—No.

741. You were a mining agent?—I was a mining agent at the time I was appointed.

Chairman—continued.

742. Then you have practically under your control the whole of the mining interest in the Forest of Dean?—Yes; with the exception that the rents and royalties are payable every 21 years; and when they are assessed Sir Warrington Smyth, the Crown Surveyor, joins me in a report on that subject.

743. Will you just explain to the Committee (that is what we have sent to you for) what the mining rights, and how the system of granting licenses is carried out in the forest; first, who are the free miners?—The free miners are all men over 21 years of age, who have been born within the hundred of St. Briavels.

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Mr. BROWN.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

considerably larger, and its outer boundary is considerably beyond the boundaries of the Forest of Dean. They must have been in the Hundred of Saint Briavels, and they have worked a year and a day in a mine. They have complied with that regulation and are entitled to come to the deputy gaveller and register as free miners. Being registered they have to produce a signed form stating facts (which has to be witnessed by some one) and they produce their certificate of baptism. This being all in order in each case, I have no alternative but to register the man as a free miner.

You mean a certificate of "birth," I suppose?—A certificate of baptism.

The point is where the man is born, not where he is baptised, is it not?—Yes, the form is witnessed states where he is born; but it has been considered, and I have always insisted on having also, as corroborative proof, the certificate of baptism.

But the certificate of birth is the legal proof of where a man is born?—Yes, no doubt. Then you enter him on your register?—

I will read this one sentence and ask you whether it is correct, then we shall have it on the notes. "Every free miner, duly qualified, has the right to demand of the King's gaveller a spot of ground chosen by him for sinking a mine, and then, provided it does not interfere with the working of any other mine, the gaveller considers himself obliged to go, receiving a fee of 5 s., and insert the name of the miner in the gale book?"—Yes, that is according to the old customs, and subject to the modifications introduced by Act 1 & 2 Vict. continues to be the custom.

That is the law?—Then I may add, the free miner cannot have more than three of those granted to him (any one free miner), and the first must be to the first applicant of those free miners.

Then what size is the gale?—That is in the discretion of the gaveller and deputy gaveller. It is to be regulated by the conditions. For example, the depth at which the minerals lie, the whole capital required to be expended, and so on.

What is your average size?—It varies, but the coal-field is a complete basin. It is about all round, and near the outcrop where the coal is shallow a very small area is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act, whilst where the coal is deep and involves large expenditure the gale has to be a large area. I think Mr. Culley explained that one of the deepest gales which has lately been granted is about 100 acres in extent.

Is a gale ordinarily of such a size as to justify the erection of a plant and the expenditure of capital to work what would be called a gale?—Yes, that is the intention. It is a gale and a royalty area.

To such an extent that a man with only one horse could carry on a colliery?—Yes.

Now will you explain to us what the royalties are, and how they are fixed?—To begin with the maximum of the royalties is the right to sink a gale of 100 acres.
3—2.

Chairman—continued.

of the Crown to put in a fifth man to work for the Crown's profit after the mine has been opened. That is the maximum.

755. How do you reduce that to cash value?—That is a very difficult and complicated operation, because the Crown mineral inspector and I have to advise the Commissioner as to what in our judgment that royalty would be, based on that maximum; and it is open to the free miner to say if he likes, "That is too much"; and he can go to arbitration with the Crown to fix it at some amount that the arbitrator might decide; and, further, whatever royalty is fixed it is only fixed for 21 years in each gale, and it is open either to the gaveller on the one hand, or the free miner, or the person who has succeeded to the interest of the free miner on the other, to object or to wish to alter the rent at the end of every 21 years; and if they cannot agree, then that has to be referred to arbitration; and it very often happens that when an arbitration does occur the Crown, in order to establish their interest, in an unopened mine for example, have to prove to the arbitrator first what in their judgment it will cost to sink the pits, the plant, and so forth; what then will be the quantity that will be worked; what then will be the profit realised, so as to get at the Crown's fifth proportion, and all that in case of dispute has to be gone into. Of course, with experience and one's intimate knowledge of the mines and district it does not often happen that the galees go to that extreme course; but, for example, I had a case only this last year of that kind; and this bulky document which I hold in my hand contains the evidence and arguments, and it means a very complicated business.

Mr. Jackson.

756. What do you mean by a "complicated" case of that kind, is it an arbitration?—It is an arbitration to fix the new rents and royalties at the end of 21 years in two gales, but involves unusual assumption in the evidence.

Chairman.

757. That is at the expiration of 21 years?—Yes.

758. Now what I want to get at is, in the first instance, how the royalty is fixed; if I understand you aright what you mean is this: that assuming that this gale was a partnership property the Crown would have the right to put in one partner to four?—Yes.

759. The Crown make the fifth partner?—That is so.

760. Then ascertaining what the cost of winning the mine would be the Crown's share of the profit is to be the gross profit and not the net profit?—Well, it would be the gross profit.

761. I want to understand whether that is so?—Yes, that is so; subject to this explanation: that the Crown are entitled to put in a fifth man after the free miner or his representative has opened the mine. Therefore, I mean the Crown have nothing to do with the expenditure involved in winning the mines, and as a result it turns out in this way, that if the mine is very shallow, which involves very little plant and very little expenditure, the free miner's interest might be very nearly really the four-fifths; but if the mine is very deep, say it is 500 or 600 yards deep,
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Mr. BROWN.

[Cont.]

Chairman—continued.

deep, the free miner will have to give away the whole of his interest in order to induce any capitalist to find the money to sink.

762. In an ordinary partnership of course every one of the five partners would have had to have paid his share of winning the mine?—Yes.

763. In this peculiar partnership the Crown pays no share of winning, but is entitled to one-fifth after it is won?—Yes, that is it.

764. Now I understand it; in the first instance, is there a power of arbitration as between the Crown and the free miner to fix what that sum should be the first time?—Yes, that is so; when the Commissioner says "I am prepared to grant you a gale, and the royalty is so-and-so," it is open to the free miner to object and to say, "that is too much," and go to arbitration if he wishes.

765. Does he ever go to arbitration?—No, he does not, because he wants to have his gale granted, and he thinks that that might interfere with his grant. I mean it is a kind of idea that he entertains.

766. We were told by Mr. Culley of a case in which 174 people applied for the same gale. How would the arbitration clause have worked there?—The 174 as a body of 174, through the representative who represented them were in this position: It was open to them to go to arbitration and say that the royalty Mr. Culley fixed was too much.

767. Supposing half of them thought it was not too much, and the other half thought it was too much?—That is a matter they would have to work out. Mr. Culley would not take any proceedings to go into an arbitration unless the people that were wishing the arbitration were either in a majority, or at all events in a position to enforce the opposition.

768. Let us take two free miners; one man says, I am prepared to give 2 *d.*; the other man says, I am prepared to give 2½ *d.* a ton?—It could only be granted to one in the name of both.

769. That I know; but I want to see whether the principle of competition comes in?—Well I do not think it does very much in the first grant.

770. You yourself fix the first grant without competition?—Practically without competition.

771. Subject to the man saying you have fixed it at too high a figure?—Yes. The ground is let to one man, and it is open to him of course to object, but practically there is no objection. That is partly due to the fact I presume that the Crown exercise a sound judgment in fixing the rents at the beginning, and there are not many cases now of arbitrations at the end of 21 years, although as a matter of fact the royalty has been increased. For instance, in 1842 the royalty averaged on coal under 2 *d.*; now it is a little over 3 *d.* On iron ore in 1842, I think it was about 2 *d.*, if I remember correctly, and now it is 5½ *d.* nearly; that is to say, it is now 5·4 *d.* on the iron and 3·1 *d.* on the coal.

772. How long does the license last?—It is granted in perpetuity, subject to the limitations I have mentioned.

Chairman—continued.

723. Is it transmissible by will?—O Subject to what Mr. Gorst says, it is in the of a freehold, I think.

774. That is a man who once having grant as a free miner, can devise th his will to a man who is not a free miner? the day he gets a grant he can sell it to one else; and that is one of the bad f of the tenure. The tenure is about as ba can be really; but there it is, and I Mr. Culley is very wise in trying to ma most of the present tenure, because ther been several attempts during my tenure o to make some arrangement with the free interest, but there always have been so difficulties that it has been found impossi example, all the free miners have votes, a tical interests arise in which I do not th Crown's interest is always put to the fro should be.

775. How many free miners are there the register?—2,262 in the case of co iron mines, and 270 in the case of quarri these there are probably 1,389 living and iron free miners, and 103 of quar miners; that makes nearly 1,500.

776. Do you mean that the rights of th are dead have lapsed?—Yes.

777. Then practically what you have with now is with about 1,400 free miners w the right to claim from the Crown a lease o to get mines or minerals in this district o paying what is equivalent to one-fifth gross profit to the Crown, and having g they could sell it, and do what they like —That is so.

778. I suppose as a matter of practical ence they do not work these mines them —No, they are all men of no means; of with a few exceptions Mr. Samuelson w firm that, that with few exceptions they a of no means, and their profit is to be deriv selling this concession to somebody else next person probably is a man who th will make some money out it, and simply as a speculation; he does not open the m tries to retain it without spending any hoping to get some next man in who w the money to develop it.

779. Having due regard to the vested i of those 1,400 people, do you think it wou sirable in the interests of the public that th ordinary tenure should be brought to an I think as an abstract question there is n that that would be a proper course, but th is what that ought to have been done i when these very rights were fixed and a and the rules and regulations prepared. the Government of the day had said, th have a certain interest, and we will confine a belt round near the outcrop, it would ha the reasonable thing to do, because the could have dealt with the shallow mi worked it themselves, or, it would have i very little money to have done it. Ins that the Government thought proper to in these regulations, which were only for the shallower workings, the deep wor the forest involving a very large expendi

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Mr. BROWN.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

der to develop them. That is the unsound part of the policy, but I do not quite see how the difficulty is to be got over now.

780. It is now a pure money question to buy the free miners' rights?—Yes; it is a pure money question. As Mr. Culley reminds me, it is not quite a money question altogether, because mixed up with it is a great deal of sentiment. These men for generations have had these interests; and people unborn of course are coming on. 781. Of course that is another question, and the same remark may be made as to all measures, that there is a sentiment, in the same way. Can you give us any idea what the value of an acre is of one of these gales?—I do not think ought to attempt to answer that question; it would vary entirely with the circumstances. I have drawn up an illustration which will show the point pretty well. If you will not mind looking at this I think you will at a glance see the point of it (*handing in a document*). That is an illustration of two gales under different circumstances, showing what ultimately the free miners' position would be (*the document is added in, vide Appendix*).

782. I will read this to the Committee, "Dean Forest, Number 1; a shallow gale, area say 100 acres." Is that an ordinary average area?—That is the ordinary area for a shallow gale.

783. The cost you put of winning coal is 100 £.; machinery and appliances for raising is 1,000 £.; annual produce, 30,000 tons; selling price 6 s. per ton, that would be 18,000 £. You deduct first the cost of raising, which you put at 5 s. a ton, amounting to 7,500 £.; then you put the interest and sinking fund on 1,000 £. at five per cent., 50 £., and trade risk and profit at 5 per cent., 50 £. You put another 100 £. on for that; you make the cost of mining and the interest upon the capital which is the 30,000 tons, 7,600 £. That would leave a profit of 1,400 £. on that year's working. Then the Crown's one-fifth of that is 280 £., which should be equivalent to the figure you gave us at now of twopence-farthing per ton?—Yes.

784. Then the free miners' share who own four-fifths, represents 1,120 £. Out of that 20 £. they find the whole of the machinery, and they have gone to the whole of the expense of mining?—Yes.

785. You would deduct from that their interest and their sinking fund, at 5 per cent. you put it. Do you think that is sufficient in your district?—I think you will find I have added another 5 per cent.

786. You put the trade profit and risk at 5 per cent.; you have taken 10 per cent. all round. Do you think that is enough?—I think it is.

787. Do you think that a man should be content with 10 per cent., out of which he is to reduce his capital?—Well, of course I have rather wide experience, and I question very much whether the colliery people, people who spend their money in mining, do on the average get more than 10 per cent.

788. That would leave a balance of 720 £.?—Yes.

789. That would represent the value of what we may call the lessee's interest?—Yes. I wish to add to that, that therefore, practically, in that case 0.103—2.

Chairman—continued.

case the ultimate result is that the free miners' interest is about two-thirds, and the Crown's one-third.

790. It is 720 £.; it is worth 7 £. per annum per acre?—Yes.

791. That is what it is?—Yes.

792. Mind you, the free miner finding all that work?—Yes.

793. Now we come to the case of the deep gale, of which the area is 1,000 acres?—Yes.

794. There you put the cost of winning the coal at 80,000 £.; the cost of machinery and appliances for raising, 20,000 £.; that makes a total of 100,000 £. Upon that 100,000 £. being spent, you say you may raise 200,000 tons a year, which would sell for 60,000 £.; the cost of getting that 60,000 £., with interest and sinking fund and this moderate trading profit which you put on, is 52,000 £.; that leaves a net profit of 8,000 £. The Crown's fifth of that you would put at 1,600 £., and the free miners' four-fifths you would put at 6,400 £. Of course from the free miners' profit has to be deducted the interest and sinking fund, and the trade profit, and the risk, which you put at 8,000 £.; and there you make a balance against the free miner of 1,600 £. per annum?—Yes.

795. Of course an operation of that sort would kill itself. A man could not afford to pay you upon these figures a royalty of 1,600 £. a year?—No; therefore the opening would be deferred until profit per ton was higher.

796. He is losing by it?—The practical effect of that would be, that if the free miner was not able to sell to someone who did not understand it, that the mine would not be opened until the relative position was altered, and profit larger than 1 s. per ton.

Mr. Jackson.

797. Yet twopence a ton is not a very high royalty, is it?—It is the true position there, really.

Chairman.

798. According to these figures, you show that this would only produce a profit of twopence a ton?—But you see in that case there might be no working until profit per ton increased.

Mr. Samuelson.

799. Do you mean the "measure" could not be worked?—In that case it is too early to work the deep measures; that is to say, in that particular example.

Chairman.

800. These figures show that a capitalist spending 100,000 £. and managing the whole of this colliery himself, and only charging the concern with 8,000 £., in respect of that 100,000 £., as interest and sinking fund, at the end of the year has not one sixpence for himself?—Yes. I use that illustration only for the purpose of showing that the free miners' rights, although he may consider them valuable to him, may be worth less than nothing in the deeper portion of the mineral field.

Mr. Samuelson.

801. Does that apply also to the Crown royalty?—No; for this reason, that the Crown have

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[Continue

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

have the right to put in their fifth man after the mine is opened. They have nothing to do with the expenditure in opening it.

Chairman.

802. I quite see your argument. Your argument is this, as I understand you; that in the case of the deep mine, practically the free miner is at a very great disadvantage compared with the Crown?—Yes.

803. In the shallow mine he has a valuable property, in the deep mine he has practically no property?—That is so. The Crown are practically the only people interested in the deep mine, in fact.

804. You are not prepared to suggest to the Committee any mode of dealing with these free miners' rights, are you?—I do not think so. I think that at all events I should prefer, so far as my judgment goes, to wait the result of the important experiment which Mr. Culley is now carrying out by way of giving the free miners as a body the opportunity of showing what they can do with these deep gales. I do not think I should like to commit myself to an opinion as to what ought to be done until we see the result of that important experiment.

805. That is the experiment of vesting in a trustee all the interests of a large number?—Yes; of course, it is quite clear the tenure is very unsound altogether; but the question is, how you are to get out of it. There have been several attempts in past years in various ways to meet the difficulty; and always when it came to a push it failed, because (very likely the sentiment, perhaps more than the reality, affected the free miners) they naturally, having votes, brought influence to bear on their various representatives; and whether from want of backbone or not, no Government seems to have been able to back up the Crown's position.

806. Are these free miners working miners?—Most of them.

807. Are they colliers?—Most of them.

808. Really working colliers?—Really working colliers.

809. And do not include capitalists in any sense of the word?—There are two or three exceptions, men who have made money and obtained a position; but practically, taking the body of free miners they are respectable working men.

810. And do they work as servants in pits in the forest themselves?—Yes.

811. They obtain these licenses and then they at once proceed to sell them?—If they can.

812. No free miner can have more than three gales, I understand you to say?—That is so.

813. But I suppose anybody can buy more than three gales?—Oh! yes; there is no limit to that, of course.

814. The capitalist comes into the mining market and he buys as many gales as he can?—Yes.

815. Do you mean that the free miner cannot have more than three allotted, or that he cannot hold more than three?—One free miner cannot have more than three gales allotted to him. If one or more allotted are forfeited the number may be made up again to three, supposing, of course, he is otherwise entitled.

Chairman—continued.

816. But any capitalist may buy any number?—Yes.

817. Can you give us any idea of the number of real colliery owners, colliery lessees we call them, in the forest?—I think the best guide to that would be to give you the number of working collieries.

818. Yes?—I can give you that. There are 44 working coal mines, collieries, and 16 working iron mines.

Mr. Jackson.

819. That means separate concerns, does it not?—Separate concerns.

Mr. Samuelson.

820. That is a diminishing number, is it not the 44 and the 16?—More or less, I suppose so. It is diminishing in this way, that some of the crop gales are working out; but of course regards the deep gales it is rather increasing because as the deep coal is worked the number of working gales is increased; the number of coal gales is 176. I have only given you the number of working gales.

Mr. Jackson.

821. If you consolidate them and put the crop gales together, as has been done, as I understand in that last case, the consolidated gale would only count as one colliery?—Yes, but that is only working, and that, of course, is only with the deepest part of the field.

822. But that would tend to diminish the number, although not to diminish the area being worked?—It would in that particular case. There are 132 gales not working. I should explain that there are two series of seams.

823. Just one question on that point. When you say that there are 132 gales not working does that mean that they have been opened and ceased to be worked, or partly one and partly the other?—Chiefly that they have not been opened, or that they have ceased to work, or been opened chiefly.

Chairman.

824. You have upwards of 1,400 free miners?—Yes.

825. You have 176 gales, I understand?—Yes; and 44, making 220.

826. You have 220 gales, of which 176 are working, and 44 are working?—We have 220 working out of the 220, that is including the 44 iron mines.

827. And the 60 gales are vested in 44 concerns; there are 44 collieries going, as I understand?—No, they are vested in 60; because 60 includes the iron mines. The 44 are collieries working and the 16 are the iron mines working.

828. According to that each gale represents a colliery?—That is practically what it is.

829. Are there not several collieries in one hand?—Yes, do you mean pits? You are referring to pits, I understand?

830. Yes?—Yes, there are cases in which one pit works more than one gale.

831. A gale may have a great many pits?—Yes, a gale may have a great many pits, and a pit may have several gales.

832.

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Mr. BROWN.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

332. I do not know what the phrase would be your part of the world; but a colliery may extend over 1,000, 2,000, or 3,000 acres, may it?—Yes, it might; but it does not, except in the case of Mr. Culley's consolidation.

333. You have only practically 44 collieries, including the ironstone, 60?—Yes.

334. Are the collieries getting both measures? They are separate measures; separate gales.

335. I mean separate gales?—Yes.

336. You do not give a gale of coal and iron the same man?—No, nor upper and lower gales. We divide those.

337. Although you divide them I suppose they frequently consolidate them before they work them?—No, not necessarily. The lower series extend over more than twice the area of the upper series. The upper series crop out in a lesser area about 6,500 acres than the lower. We have 200 acres of the lower series; 21,000 acres is the extreme extent of the iron ore field. Therefore the upper series were naturally opened first, and they have been pretty extensively worked, and the bulk of the coal is got from the upper series even now; the lower series being very much deeper, and the area of outcrop being very much wider, very much more encumbered with water; and there have been practical difficulties in getting the lower seams developed, and that undoubtedly influenced Mr. Culley in making the area large in the particular case referred to, to justify the expenditure that would be necessary to develop so large an area of deep coal.

338. A fifth of the profit, not deducting the cost of sinking the colliery and the working plant, very large royalty, is it not, as royalties are generally throughout the kingdom?—No; I should think it is only about half the ordinary royalty.

339. Just reduce it to figures, how would it be?—My experience of an ordinary royalty is from 6 *d.* to 9 *d.* a ton.

340. But what I want you to make clear to my mind is this; whether you in fixing what you call the royalty are not fixing a very low sum in the first instance. If it was what you say it should be, it would give you an enormous profit?—Take 2 *d.* or 2½ *d.*; that would represent about 1 *s.* a ton profit. Well, I doubt very much whether in the average of years collieries do produce more than 1 *s.* a ton profit.

341. Including royalty?—Including the 2½ *d.* on all events; it is only 2½ *d.*; I doubt very much whether they do.

342. Do you think that is so in the case of collieries in Staffordshire and Yorkshire?—I do not certainly think it is the case in Yorkshire. I do not know that it is so in Staffordshire.

343. What is the average royalty in the Mansley district?—About 6 *d.* to 8 *d.*, I should think.

344. What is the selling price?—The selling price, until just lately, has been exceedingly low. Very few of the collieries in Yorkshire, until the last 18 months, have been making any profits. Except one or two of the large ones they have been making any money at all. Such collieries as Mauvers Main, and some of those mines that are working very large quantities of coal that have no faults or interruptions to

103.

Chairman—continued.

trouble them seriously, have made a little money. I know one colliery (I do not know that I should name it) which was producing about 400,000 tons a year, and I do not think they made for years more than 10,000 *l.* or 12,000 *l.* a year. That is a good example of a good colliery in Yorkshire.

345. Sixpence a ton?—Yes.

346. Then they have paid a sixpenny royalty, and paid their outlay?—Yes, no doubt; that is 1 *s.*; but then that is an exceptional colliery. Our royalties in South Wales run from about 6 *d.* to 9 *d.*

347. Is that steam coal?—That is steam coal; but then that is for the best coal; it is the first letting, and directly the best seams are worked out, the lessees go to their landlords and say, "We cannot go on paying this 9 *d.* royalty; we must have a reduction." The result is they have the reduction, and, practically, it is a sliding scale which only "slides" in one way, that is, against the landlord. He gets his maximum to begin with, but when the times become troublesome, the lessee goes for a reduction. In Cumberland, on the other hand, and, of course, in some other parts, the royalties are on a pure sliding scale, which works very fairly, I think, and I have endeavoured to introduce it in some other districts. I have made several lettings lately on the sliding scale in South Wales, I think.

348. Not in the forest?—No; you cannot, because there you are hit by this tenure.

349. You are fixed with the 21 years?—Yes.

350. Then as a practical mining surveyor you think that the Crown is getting its fair royalty in this district?—I think it is. It is getting as full a royalty as the tenure; the condition under which they hold the minerals, entitles them to; because the average royalty they get is about 3 *d.* on coal and 5 *d.* on iron; and after what has been discussed here, that would appear to be quite the full fifth.

351. What machinery have you for checking the output?—I get from the railway companies that take the whole of the traffic from the forest half-yearly returns. My assistant checks the accounts with the books of the different gales, and in some cases I do it myself; then I myself check the whole of the returns with the railway returns from each colliery. Every half year, therefore, in that way I get the accurate results, because if there is any discrepancy I follow it up until it is cleared up, with the exception of the few Land Sale Collieries. There I inspect the books. I generally have the books brought to the office, inspect the books, and compare them with their returns, and the only difficulties I ever have in getting accurate returns are in the case of those very small land sales where the men are working men, and not over particular about the returns; and the way that I manage to get them into order is by surcharging them if I find their books are not clear. I say, "Very well, if you do not like to keep proper books, as you are bound by the rules and regulations to do, I shall charge you an extra quantity in this half year's accounts, and if you want to get out of this kind of thing you must keep your books properly."

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352. Mr.

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Mr. BROWN.

[Conti

Mr. Samuelson.

852. Mr. Cully was asked, in Question 195, "You do not work any of those mines yourselves?" and he said "None;" that is say, you could not; you have not the right to work coal yourself except through the fifth man, have you?—No.

853. In fact you could not have any coal worked in the district at all except by granting first to the free miner?—At present that is so.

854. Talking about the sentiment attached to the free miner's rights, are not there some men who actually have worked a day and a year in a mine for the purpose of getting admitted later on as a free miner?—For the purpose of becoming registered, you mean?

855. Yes?—Oh, yes, there have been such. I only know of about two cases of that kind. I think one of the Brain's did that, if I remember rightly.

856. Do you think that the free miners' rights now in the pits which are at present working act as a restriction on the output of coal?—In this way, that a bad tenure always does retard and interfere with the development of a mineral field; and there is a very strong example here, I think. Of course it is impossible to particularise it, but for years and years the gales in the Forest of Dean, although not working, were in the hands either of speculators, or of a bank, as security, and it so went on. These people were not able to deal with it, and ultimately they found they were lending money on what appeared to be a sound investment, but which was not; it re-acted upon the forest, and we have been suffering in the Forest of Dean for the last 10 or 15 years from the fact of the tenure being bad; and the money lent on those properties, instead of being applied to develop the property, being applied simply as a speculation and a loan.

857. But all that time the Crown were getting their dead rent?—Yes.

858. Their income was not suffering, was it?—Yes; it was suffering to the extent of not getting any surplus workings on the working of the coal.

859. That is to say, not getting an income above the dead rent?—Yes.

860. Is it your opinion that the free miners' rights at present are preventing the deep coal from being worked?—I would not like to go so far as that. I would rather defer giving any opinion about the free miners until this experiment has been tested, because it is a *bona fide* attempt on the part of Mr. Culley to make the most of the forest under the present rules and regulations in relation to the free miners. I would prefer not to express an opinion until we know the result of that experiment; I mean that I should rather like my mind to be open and myself at liberty to give such advice as I think the circumstances may justify at the time.

861. Has anybody ever succeeded in working these deep measures to a profit?—The Lightmoor and Foxes Bridge Pits are 300 yards deep, and they are working. You refer to the lower measures?

862. I refer to the lower series?—They have been worked round the outcrop. It is only a question of tackling them properly, because the quantity of water, which is alleged to be the great difficulty, is only the water due to percola-

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

tion from the outcrop of that particular. If it was tackled in one or two places, the quantity would be reduced at each opening. Instead of as at present, having only one where the drainage comes through, there two or three, it would be reduced to one and so on.

863. Which do you think is the greater impediment to working, the deep measures cannot at present be worked; is it the free rights or is it the water?—Well, I should in the first instance, it is the free miners' having affected the reputation of the that is one thing. Then, beyond that, no the water has been a difficulty; because in a case, where an attempt to sink was carried more or less, they had great difficulties with water. There is no doubt that that operation mean that I think both circumstances of. To what extent, or how much one of more than the other, it is impossible to say, I

864. Has the Crown, or have you ever considered the propriety or the possibility of erecting pumping engines, and pumping the whole water from that deep coal and charging a conditional royalty to those who benefit by went into that very carefully some years ago and came to the conclusion that it was not a practicable scheme at all. I took a lot of trouble, and, I think, I reported to Mr. Culley's predecessor, Mr. Howard; I came decidedly to the opinion that it was quite impracticable, and the only way to deal with the lower measures was by individual speculators dealing with them. To begin with, if the Crown attempted to sink these lower measures they would have to sink one or two or more pits, establish pumping engines, then to make communications along to get the water; then there would be a great deal of provisions as to how the rates were apportioned and divided amongst the various owners, so that the whole thing is totally impracticable. I am satisfied; and, I think, that the experience of South Staffordshire is not encouraging in respect.

Chairman.

865. I suppose we have a good deal of water in Staffordshire than you have in the Forest of Dean?—Yes, no doubt. Still, I suggest that the Crown should sink and drain a series of measures in a coal field, and not think it is practicable, nor would it be wise on the part of any public body to spend the public money in that kind of speculation.

Mr. Jackson.

866. Mr. Culley said something on Tuesday and I could not quite understand what it was, with reference to an expenditure of £1,300 a year for surveying, or something of that sort in connection with these mines. Do you got a staff under you which does this kind of work?—I have one surveyor, and he is a boy who carries the chain. They do the surveys, and they do the planning, and keep the surveys of every one of the collieries and mines.

867. And make periodical visits down the mines?—Yes; these inspections are done

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Mr. BROWN.

[Continued.]

Mr. Jackson—continued.

All round the forest every mine has to be surveyed every year, and if any question arises I go and inspect myself; for instance, if there is any question as to breach of barrier, or any question of boundary arising; and I may say that I personally surveyed every mine in the forest during the earlier years of my appointment, and know the in-and-outs pretty well of every mine, and the results of these surveys I keep up the knowledge in the gaveler's office, and the position of every mine is kept close up.

And the extent to which the coal is got?—That is the extent to which the coal is got. That is the staff I have for surveying; that is really the gaveler's staff. Beyond that two or three years ago Mr. Culley kindly advised the gaveler that I should take over the receiving of the rents. Well, I pay a clerk for assisting me out of my own salary.

When you say the "rents," do you mean the receipts for the royalties?—All the mineral rents, that is to say all the rents except the land rents and the land rents.

Are they paid yearly or half-yearly?—Yearly. Then I hold an audit, and we have these galees, and that is part of the expense which Mr. Culley put before you.

Mr. Jackson—continued.

871. Then the quantity got is checked each half-year, is it?—Each half-year.

872. And the railway returns and other figures to which you refer are half-yearly accounts?—Yes.

Chairman.

873. You check the colliery returns by the railway returns?—First I check the colliery returns by the galee's books, and then afterwards by the railway returns.

874. Then we may take it from you that you do not feel able to make any practical suggestions for the improvement of the management of this colliery property, because the whole question is so entangled and complicated with these free-miners' right that unless you had a free hand you could not alter the present situation?—That is exactly the position. I am satisfied that the income of the Crown would have been very much larger years and years ago, but for the fact that their hands are tied and they cannot move.

875. But having regard to the free miner's rights and position, you think the public is getting as much as can be got under existing circumstances?—Yes, they are getting full value.

Tuesday, 25th June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.
Mr. Charles Hall.

Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw Stewart.

MR. HENRY H. FOWLER, IN THE CHAIR.

Colonel NIGEL KINGSCOTE, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

876. You are one of the Commissioners of the Woods and Forests?—I am.

877. I believe you were appointed on the 3rd of March 1885?—I was.

878. On the retirement of Mr. Gore, who had previously been Commissioner for a long period of years?—Nearly 50 years, I believe.

879. There has been a division since your appointment between yourself and Mr. Culley of the management, has there not?—Yes; the division was made by the Treasury before I was appointed.

880. By a Treasury Warrant dated 3rd of March 1885, Mr. Culley had assigned to him the management of the various forest properties of which he has given us the particulars; and you have all the rest?—I have all the rest.

881. The property under your control is generally either forests or plantations, or agricultural, or other land, or buildings, and other property in London, but does not include any mines I think, does it?—Oh, yes.

882. You have mines?—I have mines.

883. In what part of England are your mines?—I have mines in the north of England, Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, and Yorkshire; I have also mines in Cornwall. I think those are all.

884. As we have been dealing with the forests, we had better go on, I think, in your examination, and take the forests first. You have under your charge, Windsor Great Park, the plantations and the property at Ascot, Bagshot, and Virginia Water?—Yes, and also the Home Park, public, which is rather distinct.

885. Have you anything to do with the London parks?—Nothing, not parks proper.

886. What are called the Royal Parks?—What are called the Royal Parks.

887. The Royal Parks are under the control of the First Commissioner of Works?—Yes.

888. Will you tell the Committee what quantity of land is comprised in Windsor Great Park and plantations?—It comprises the Home Park, public, which probably contains about 70 acres. The Great Park contains 5,355 acres; the plan-

Chairman—continued.

tations, the heath land, and other property taining about 9,750 acres.

889. What does that make a total?—1 acres.

890. Do you make any division of the the purpose of our inquiry, or would you su any division?—The plantations, I think, better be considered as divided into two namely, first of all the oak plantation, ad to the Great Park; and secondly, Ascot H and the fir, and mixed plantations situated or beyond Ascot.

891. How much of the Park is maint as part of the domain attached to Wi Castle?—The 5,355 acres, which I have tioned before.

892. That is the Great Park?—That i Great Park.

893. Then the other 10,000 acres in figures is not attached to Windsor Castle i sense that that is?—No, it is not. It ad but you may consider it different.

894. It is not regarded as part of the re tial property of the Crown?—No.

895. But you would regard the 5,000 ac part of the property attached to the residen Windsor Castle?—Certainly.

896. And, I suppose, in your managemen treatment of it, you would regard the ame of that property as the first consideration att to Windsor Castle?—That is the way managed.

897. You would not regard that as an in producing property?—No.

898. That is part of the Crown pro enjoyed by the Sovereign; you simply hav charge of that, to make it as beneficial as po to the Sovereign?—Yes, that is so.

899. At and beyond Ascot you let the tations, do you not?—No, I do not let the tations. They are all under my charge. I them entirely in my charge. I let some lan building purposes.

900. I thought that parts of the planta beyond Ascot, containing 1,866 acres, were

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Colonel KINGSCOTE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

they form part of what is called the Ascott plantations; but I do not let the plantations themselves, if I understand you rightly. I have a plan here, if the Committee would like to see it, which will show you at once the extent of the plantations.

1. Yes, I should like to see it; just show it?—*(The plan is produced.)*

2. That is the Ordnance map, I presume?—*Yes.*

3. Where is Windsor Castle in that plan?—*(pointing to the plan.)*

4. Then what is enclosed within that red line?—That is the Park.

5. That is what you call the Great Park?—Great Park.

6. That is the Long Walk?—This is the Long Walk down here.

7. That ends the Great Park?—The Great Park comes on to here, taking in Virginia Water.

8. What are those parts marked purple?—Those are official residences.

9. Where do you go on now to the other party which you mentioned, the 9,000 acres; what is that?—All inside this green line. It runs down here, and back again so *(pointing to the plan.)*

10. It does not lie in a ring fence, I see?—It is a very great length down here; it runs near to Sandhurst College.

11. Down to Bagshot?—Yes, beyond Bagshot some way. That blue is Bagshot.

12. Do you think any parts of it have been sold at any time; I should think they would not be an original grant of a piece of land of that kind?—I think they were allotments to the soldiers.

13. When the enclosure took place?—Yes.

14. And really the original domain attached to Windsor Castle is that 5,000 acres?—Yes. There are other parts.

15. Which are the 1,866 acres which you mentioned just now?—The yellow.

16. The deer, the game, the fish, and the other things are not under your charge?—No.

17. Under whose charge are they?—They are under the charge of the Ranger.

18. The Ranger is appointed by the Crown, and the power reserved in Section 135 of the Charter of George IV, is he not?—Yes.

19. These are the exact terms of the section: "Nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to abridge or interfere with any rights of His Majesty, his heirs or assigns, or of the Lord High Treasurer, or Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the time being, or any grantee of the Crown, in respect of any appointment usually made by His Majesty, or said Lord High Treasurer or Commissioners, or the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or any grantee, or with the right of appointment of master keepers, under keepers, or other officers in any Royal forest, so long as such last-mentioned right shall be vested in any warder or officer of any such forest, or with any privileges or advantages which may be rightfully enjoyed by the same."—*Yes.*

Chairman—continued.

or claimed under any letters patent granted by His Majesty or his predecessors, of any office, bailiwick, walk, or lodge within any of the Royal forests"; under that clause a Ranger is appointed of Windsor Park, and he has the sole control of the deer, the game, the fish, and the herbage?—That is so.

920. And the management of the gates to the park?—That is under my management too (the gates of the park); but he appoints gatekeepers.

921. I understand you to say here, that the management of the gates and the park are not under your charge?—No, I am wrong. The Ranger does look after the gates of the park.

922. Who appoints the Ranger's staff?—The Ranger.

923. And who pays them?—They are paid through my office.

924. That is, they are paid out of funds under your control?—Yes.

925. And I suppose the Treasury exercise a veto on any increase or alteration in that staff?—Yes, that is so; the Treasury do.

926. Can you tell us what the salaries and allowances of the Ranger's establishment are?—Do you mean generally, or each?

927. Just give us the last average?—Since I was appointed; in 1885-86 it amounted to 2,616 £. (I need not give the pence); in 1886-87 to 2,674 £.; in 1887-88 to 2,648 £.; and in 1888-89 to 2,665 £. 10 s. 4 d.

928. Are there any other allowances to the staff?—There are houses provided and kept up for nearly all the Ranger's staff, and certain of them enjoy privileges such as allowances of hay and pasturage. Many of them, I believe, are obliged to provide and keep a horse for the performance of their duties.

929. I suppose the Deputy Ranger is practically the official with whom you are brought into personal contact?—Yes; and he sends me every year an estimate for the cost, which is forwarded to the Treasury for their sanction.

930. But the figures that you have given me just now do not include the entire expense of the Ranger's Department, do they?—No.

931. Certain sums are voted by the House of Commons in the Civil Service Estimates which are expended by the First Commissioner of Works; does the Ranger get any part of that?—That does not apply to the park.

932. That applies exclusively to buildings?—Not to buildings in my charge.

933. Not to the park?—Not to the park. It applies to the private part of the park.

934. Just explain that to the Committee, will you. There is a charge here in the Estimates for that?—There is the Home Park, which is private; and there is the Great Park, which is not. Some of it goes to the Home Park. I do not know whether you understand that what I gave you before was the salaries; and that besides that there is the expenditure, which I could also give you?

935. Yes?—The total for 1885-86, was 5,015 £.; for 1886-87, 5,096 £.; for 1887-88, 5,221 £.; and for 1888-89, 4,809 £.

936. What does the difference between the whole

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Colonel KINGSCOTE.

[Cont.]

Chairman—continued.

whole that you gave us just now, 2,600 *l.*, and the 5,000 *l.* represent?—What I gave you just now was salaries, and this includes the expenditure for food for the deer, the purchase of the cattle, and in fact everything that the Ranger supervises.

937. Just turn to page 135 of the accounts, will you, of your last published Report. We had better have all this clearly put on the Notes?—I have it here.

938. You see the first item, Ranger's Department, 2,648 *l.* 4 *s.* 9 *d.*?—Yes; that is salaries.

939. Those are the salaries; that is the salary of the Deputy Ranger, 400 *l.*; chaplain, 180 *l.*; bailiff, 210 *l.*; park-keepers, 617 *l.* 4 *s.*; game-keepers, 327 *l.* 12 *s.*; gate-keepers, 359 *l.* 1 *s.* 4 *d.*; locksmith, 98 *l.* 18 *s.* 6 *d.*; fisherman, warrener, herdsman, and other servants, 306 *l.* 19 *s.* 5 *d.*; liveries for park-keepers, &c., 148 *l.* 9 *s.* 6 *d.*?—Yes.

940. Now we come to the Commissioner of Woods' Department; that is your department?—That is my department.

941. What is this: "Deputy Surveyor, 500 *l.*"?—That is a separate officer; he is an officer; under me; my head officer down there. He lives down there.

942. You, I see, have a deputy surveyor; there are certain clerks; there are five woodmen, there is a foreman of the park, there is a clerk of the works, and two foremen of carpenters and painters; that represents a total of 1,578 *l.* 16 *s.* 4 *d.*?—Yes, that is so.

943. Making the total of salaries and allowances 4,227 *l.* 1 *s.* 1 *d.*?—Yes.

944. Then we come to "new works and improvements"; "maintenance and general management"; "preparation of produce for sale"; "purchase of live stock," there is nothing in that last here, I see, making a total of 18,873 *l.* 6 *s.* 2 *d.*?—Yes, I have that total; but the Ranger's portion of that is 2,572 *l.* 17 *s.* 3 *d.*

945. Which item would that be under?—Under the Ranger's Department, in the same line as the 18,873 *l.*

946. The total expenditure on Windsor Park and Woods is 23,237 *l.* 1 *s.* 2 *d.*?—That is taking salaries and expenses.

947. Everything?—Everything.

948. And of the 18,873 *l.*, 2,572 *l.* is expenses incurred by the Ranger?—Yes; and with the salaries, which are 2,648 *l.*, makes a total of 5,221 *l.* 2 *s.*

949. I see that the Ranger attends to the cattle; there is provender, there is food for the game, and compassionate allowances, miscellaneous expenditure, and the purchase of live stock?—Yes; the food for game is a fixed sum.

950. £. 500 a-year?—£. 500 a-year.

951. Then the deer have 774 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.* expended upon them?—That was unusually large in that year, owing to the dry summer and the cold wet winter.

952. In your department the principal items of expenditure are, first, the repairs and maintenance at Ascot and Cumberland Lodge; the first five items?—Those are new works.

953. That amounts to something under 1,000 *l.*, "new works and improvements"?—Yes.

954. It is something under 1,000 *l.*?—Yes.

955. Now we come to "repairs and maintenance of lodges, &c. in Windsor Great Park, Ascot and Bagshot, including the Royal kennels, &c., 3,822 *l.* 8 *s.* 10 *d.*"?—Yes.

956. Then we come to repairs and maintenance of roads, drives, fences, and care of plantations, grass land, &c., 8,650 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d.*?—Yes.

957. Then the next large item is, rates, taxes, about 1,000 *l.*; and there are other items. Will you tell the Committee how much you think of that 23,237 *l.*, which is the total expenditure for Windsor Park and Woods, but to the residential property (the Great Park) how much to the outside property; the 18,873 *l.* outside?—I am afraid I can hardly say that.

958. Can you give us any idea about it; is it a third or a fourth?—I think you would probably wish to have the deputy surveyor's account might give you a more accurate account than can, for they are so thoroughly mixed up. I should be sorry to attempt it.

959. Is there any other expenditure in Windsor but that. This page shows the whole expenditure on Windsor Park, I understand. That shows the whole expenditure.

960. But it does not in any way include expenditure for Windsor Castle?—Nothing.

961. Under the Treasury Minute of 1838, I think it is (at all events, a Treasury Minute in 1838), there was transferred from Lord Chamberlain's Department the charge of providing for all those expenses which have heretofore defrayed by the Office of Woods Works for Windsor Castle, except for the internal and external walls, which were then maintained as part of the charge for public buildings. I think a re-adjustment has taken place since that; that was when your office was divided. Was it not; when the works were taken from the Treasury?—That may be so; I cannot speak of it from my own knowledge.

962. I should like to get that quite accurate. Now we come back to Windsor. The entire expenditure is 23,237 *l.* What is the entire expenditure from Windsor?—£. 4,442. 4 *s.* 6 *d.*

963. Does that include Ascot and Bagshot, Heath, and all the property there?—Yes, it includes all.

964. The Home Park, to which the public have access, contains a few plantations, for ornament, and these are enclosed; but the remainder is entirely open to the public as it is a recreation ground?—That is so.

965. And no deer or game are maintained in this park?—Not in that park.

966. What is the quantity of water in the Great Park?—In the Great Park there are about 210 acres of water; nearly 300 acres of ornamental plantation; and about 100 acres for the growth of hay for park horses, deer, or for pasturing the deer; then there are 250 acres of the Flemish farm occupied by the Queen, and 250 acres forming sites of lodges, or buildings, or land held with houses and lodges.

967. That would leave a residue of 4,000 *l.* in the Great Park?—It is so. That is practically open to the public on foot.

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Colonel KINGSCOTE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

968. Is there any restriction; I mean any restriction of admission required?—None.

969. None whatever?—No.

970. Does the deer fence run through any part?—Yes, through a large portion of the park. There is a deer fence through the park and also some of the plantations, and in these iron fences there are gates which are kept locked; at nearly all those gates there are footways which anybody can pass through.

971. I suppose so long as deer are maintained in the park at all you could not make it more open than it at present is?—No, it would be impossible.

972. At all events, if you did, you would want a very great increase of gatekeepers and new fences?—That is so.

Mr. Jackson.

973. It would be rather dangerous, would it not, at certain seasons of the year?—Through the deer?

974. Yes?—Yes; and notices are put up always at that time.

Chairman.

975. Are there any keys to these locked gates?—Yes.

976. Who has the control of those keys?—The Ranger has the control of the keys. They have hitherto been given free; but now a fee of one guinea per annum is charged to each person who asks for a key, and obtains that key.

977. Must those applicants be resident in the parish, or the neighbourhood, or can anybody have them?—That is at the discretion of the Ranger; but I believe, as a matter of fact, they are given only to those who reside immediately in the vicinity of the Park.

978. Are there any gates open at night?—No, two gates; Queen Anne's Gate and the West Gate.

979. Does the main road from Ascot to Windsor run between those gates?—Between those gates; and that is a public road.

980. What gates are they?—Double gates to the north (they are open in the night and day); Bishop's Gate to the east (open day and night); and Blackness Gate to the south, which is open in the day-time only.

981. Are those roads you mention open to all traffic?—Yes, and kept up.

982. And kept up?—Yes.

983. I suppose they are kept up out of this sum of 8,650*l.*?—They are. There are about 10 miles of them in the park.

984. What extent of country do the plantations and heath land cover?—Outside?

985. Yes?—About eight miles.

986. And they go right on beyond the west of the park?—Yes; and there are a great many gravel pits and also heather rides, and there is very little restriction in the use of those.

987. Are there any plantations in that property for the growth of timber?—Yes, considerable plantations through which people on foot go, at least do go.

988. Have you let any part of that land on long leases?—Yes, some small portions.

989.

Chairman—continued.

989. How much?—I can hardly tell you. It is just round about Ascot Heath.

990. In what page of the accounts will that be; that will be under the Capital Account, will it not?—It is on page 134. It comes there under "Rental for 1887-88," "Rents of Lands, Cottages, &c." and then "Rental?"

991. It forms part of that 2,000 *l.*, does it not?—It forms part of it. I think something might come in here which was omitted, namely, that as regards Ascot Heath itself, under the Enclosure Act of 1813, it is appointed that it shall be kept and continued as a racecourse, as it had usually been. Although it is under my jurisdiction you see it could not be touched.

992. You have the control of the Grand Stand, have you not?—The Grand Stand I receive a rent for.

993. You receive the rent for it now?—Yes; I have the maintenance of the Royal Stand.

994. Then whom do you lease the Grand Stand to?—To certain trustees.

995. And they pay you a rental for it?—Yes.

996. And they keep the Stand in repair?—Oh, yes.

997. The Royal Stand, Stables, and Inclosure are maintained by your department?—The Royal Stand; but the Inclosure is maintained by the Master of the Buckhounds. He keeps up that with his own Stand.

998. Can you give us any idea of the gross building rental of Ascot Heath?—I can do it, but I have not got it at hand exactly. It is only lately that they have begun to build there.

999. I should like to ask what restrictions, and under what conditions, you grant the building leases at Ascot?—So many years' lease.

1000. How many?—About 90 or 91. We have some of them about 99; but they are generally 91 or 92; under 99 years, with the restriction that the houses built upon the land shall be of so much value, and the ground-rent so much.

1001. Upon what principle is the ground-rent estimated?—That is a matter for the Crown Surveyor under me; he estimates that.

1002. The deputy surveyor?—No, it does not come under the deputy surveyor, as he is not a real surveyor, the deputy surveyor of Windsor Park. It comes under Mr. Clutton, the Crown Surveyor for the county of Berks.

1003. We will get it in this way, that the rental of the building property at Ascot Heath is practically settled by Mr. Clutton, subject to your approval?—Subject to my approval.

1004. And I assume that there is one uniform rental now charged; he does not charge varying rents, does he?—It depends very much upon the site.

1005. We shall have Mr. Clutton, and we will hear the facts from him?—I hope so; but I am sorry to say he is very ill.

1006. Then perhaps we can have some one from his department?—Yes.

1007. Is there any report made to the Treasury upon the granting of those leases?—Yes, always.

1008. And the Treasury sanction is obtained?—The Treasury sanction them.

1009. Now then, Bagshot Park. Will you just

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

just tell us the circumstances of Bagshot Park, its size and condition?—It is held by Her Majesty under circumstances similar to those of the Great Park of Windsor. It contains about 500 acres, one-half of which is woodland in my charge; the occupation of the house is given by Her Majesty to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught; and the external repairs, the maintenance of fences and lodges falls on my department.

1010. Do you mean external repairs of that house?—Of that house.

1011. There was a new house built there I think?—Yes; and therefore the repairs have been very light, and will be for some years.

1012. Then is there any other property than Bagshot and Ascot that you wish to say anything about?—No, I think not.

1013. We have now covered the whole of the 15,000 acres?—I have not given you the list of the houses and lodges.

1014. No, I am simply dealing now with the landed property?—Yes.

1015. Now taking the Great Park, the Home Park, and Ascot and Bagshot altogether, what is the total length of the road maintained by your department?—The total of the gravel roads, as we call them, is about 42 miles, and the grass rides which are to be maintained, 68 miles.

1016. How many of the 42 miles of roads are public roads?—About 11½, the liability to maintain about nine miles of which was thrown upon the Crown under the Windsor Forest Enclosure Acts, under which considerable allotments of land were made to the Crown.

1017. Have the public practically the use of the 42 miles of roads?—They have.

1018. And practically I suppose, the use of the 68 miles of grass rides?—Yes; of course the grass rides, at least a great many of those, are only accessible through the locked gates. Still those who have the keys can use them.

1019. Do the local authorities contribute anything to the maintenance of the public roads?—Quite lately. The local authorities are to contribute to the cost of maintaining about 2½ miles in length between the two gates I mentioned first, that is, the Queen Anne's Gate and Forest Gate.

Mr. Jackson.

1020. Is that the correct way of stating it, that the local authority is to contribute, or that the local authority is to maintain?—I was going to say my department have to keep them up, and they will contribute; whereas in other parts an arrangement has just been made by which they will maintain the roads, and my department will contribute. It will be a saving I think of about 400 £. per annum, as far as I can see at present.

Chairman.

1021. Can you give us any idea of the length of the wooden and iron fences?—Exclusive of the fencing of the plantations in the parks there are 78 miles of external wooden and deer fence, banks, hedges, and low fences, which are necessary to be kept up.

1022. You say there are certain residences in the park; how many?—There are numerous

Chairman—continued.

wellings, residences, cottages, and building least 160 in all.

1023. That is exclusive of the houses at Ascot?—That is exclusive of the houses at Ascot.

1024. Those are houses which belong to the Crown and which you have to maintain?—And which I have to maintain. There are also very expensive things like culverts, pond heads, bridges, pens, &c., to be maintained.

1025. Then in contrasting the expenditure on those parks with the income, we have to bear in mind this enormous outlay which is imposed upon the department for roads and fences, keeping those lodges and houses in repair, that class of expenditure, which it would be difficult to find an exact parallel for under any other circumstances?—That is so.

1026. Therefore you would think that it would not be a fair mode of considering this property simply to say: "On one side the receipt is so much, 4,400 £.; and the expenditure, on the other side, is 23,000 £.; therefore we should be 18,600 £. better off if we had not the property at all." That is so.

1027. You would not agree with that view of the course?—You cannot compare it in any way with the other.

1028. That I understand; then how does the deputy surveyor control, or how do you control, in his receipts and expenditure?—I control altogether. He sends me his accounts monthly.

Mr. Isaacs.

1029. What is the name of the deputy surveyor?—Mr. Simmonds.

1030. Mr. Simmonds renders to you monthly accounts of his receipts and expenditure?—Yes; then prior to the commencement of each financial year, he gives me detailed estimates of the expenditure which he considers necessary during the following year. Then I closely examine them, and sometimes go down and see if it is required. I examine them, and when satisfied they are submitted to the Treasury for sanction; and then, when authorised by the Treasury, the authority is given to the deputy surveyor to estimate the expenditure, for which money is provided from time to time, imprested by me to him as required.

1031. Then, practically, there can be no expenditure in Windsor Park without your approval without the Treasury sanction?—That is so. Of course there might be some unexpected expenditure, but that would be only a small amount, and I should immediately get authority from the Treasury for that. I may say that although the deputy surveyor is under me, he is appointed by the Treasury, and his salary and his allowances are also fixed by the Treasury.

1032. But he is not independent of you?—No, in no way.

1033. Was last year's expenditure the net expenditure, or was it rather a large expenditure of the 23,000 £.?—It is rather less since I have been Commissioner; from the first year, 1885, it was 21,242 £.

1034. That is the net expenditure?—That is the net expenditure.

1035. Not the gross expenditure?—No.

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[Continued.]

Mr. Isaac—continued.

036. The net expenditure after deducting the receipts?—Yes.

037. The net expenditure of 1885-86 was 242 l.?—Yes.

038. What was it in 1886-87?—£. 18,554.

039. In 1887-88?—£. 18,794.

040. And last year?—£. 18,016.

041. Part of that expenditure, of course, the bulk of it, was through your department, and the rest of it through the Ranger's department?—Yes.

042. In addition to the park property at Windsor there is also an estate in that neighbourhood belonging to the Crown, is not there?—There is.

043. Just tell us what that is?—It is in the neighbourhood of Windsor Park, just outside, and runs down (which will be most familiar to the Committee) towards Eton. It is in the county of Berkshire, and therefore it goes under Mr. Clutton's charge as Crown Receiver.

044. What name does it bear; what is it called?—It is very detached.

045. Has it got no name?—No, not any name.

Chairman.

046. What is the nature of the property; is it land or houses?—Both; there is agricultural land and also some house property.

047. Then the expenditure upon that is not shown in the expenditure upon the Windsor Park account?—No, nor the receipts.

048. On which page are the receipts; is it shown separately anywhere in the accounts?—It would come in page 120, "Rentals, Receipts, and Revenue."

049. It is all lumped together there?—Yes.

050. You do not know the exact income from that property, do you?—No, I do not.

051. Then the Crown Receiver, Mr. Clutton, collects the rents of that property?—Yes,

052. Who collects the rents of whatever is in Windsor Park and Woods?—Actually in Windsor Park and Woods, my deputy surveyor, Mr. Simmonds.

053. And he collects that without any extra charge?—Without any extra charge.

054. Can you tell us what it costs to collect the remainder of the rents of this other property at Windsor?—Mr. Clutton receives 4 per cent. on the collection.

055. Is there anything derived from clay and gravel on this property?—Yes, there is something; a sum of about 400 l. a-year.

056. Does that 400 l. appear in those receipts, or is it carried to some other account?—No; it does not appear there. It goes into the Crown Lands account. That is under the Crown Lands account of 1866.

057. Is that clay for brickmaking?—Yes, and there is a little gravel also.

058. Do you sell much timber out of Windsor Park?—A certain amount of thinnings every year.

059. Just simply thinnings?—Yes.

060. You do not regard the trade that you

Chairman—continued.

carry on there as they do in the other forests we heard of the other day; you do not regard that as really the manufacture of timber?—No, I do not; at the same time I try to keep the oak woods just outside the park in a state that anybody would keep them in for profit as well as ornament. I see that last year there was 947 l. 6 s. 3 d. received for the sale of produce.

1061. Who has the game outside the Great Park?—On all the Crown land, the Queen.

1062. I mean do you let the shooting?—No.

1063. There is no part of the shooting let here?—Oh no, it is all kept.

1064. Over the whole 15,000 acres?—Over the whole 15,000 acres.

1065. Under whose control is that; the Ranger's?—The Ranger's.

1066. But I observe that in the Ranger's department there is a payment for gamekeepers?—Oh yes.

1067. There is also a contribution of 500 l. for the food, exclusive of the deer; is not that so?—Yes. I think it ought to be understood by the Committee that supposing there were not these gamekeepers there would have to be people employed by my department to prevent trespasses, &c. in the park.

1068. Before we leave this branch of the Windsor property, have you any suggestion to make with reference to the management, or working of it?—No, I have not.

1069. You are quite satisfied with it at present?—I am quite satisfied with it under the conditions upon which it is held by Her Majesty.

1070. You think it is economically managed?—It is my wish and intention to see that it is so.

1071. I mean you have no suggestions to make as to any change which you think might result in greater economy?—No, I have not under the special circumstances.

1072. Now we will come to what you call the second part of your property, which are, the manors, messuages, lands, and mines, in all the various parts of England?—Yes.

1073. You have nothing outside England, I think?—Nothing.

1074. Mr. Culley takes Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and the Channel Island; what you take is all in England?—I am in England only.

1075. We must go through that property in detail. You have classified it for us, I think. Let us first take the agricultural property, the farms and the lands. What is the quantity of Crown agricultural property?—About 69,000 acres of farms and lands, of which about 1,178 acres are now in hand, and the residue is let for agricultural purposes.

1076. In how many counties?—Twenty-three counties in England; the rents from which amounted in 1887-88 to 82,081 l.

1077. Which page of the account will that appear in?—Page 120.

1078. That forms part of the rental of 345,007 l. 13 s. 5 d., I think?—That is so.

1079. £. 82,081 was from agricultural land?—That is so.

F 4

1080-82. Does

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

1080-82. Does that include anything from the farms in hand?—Out of the 69,000 acres there are 1,178 acres in hand.

1083. I suppose whatever the rental figure is it will include any net surplus of receipts over expenditure on those farms?—That is so.

1084. Can you tell us whether that rent has been considerably reduced in recent years?—Yes, considerably.

1085. Now what would that be when you first came into office; what do you think that rental would amount to then?—There is not so much difference in the last four years, I think. The rental began to fall in 1879.

1086. Taking 10 years I see the rent of agricultural land in 1878 was 122,719 £., and in 1888 it had dropped to 85,860 £.?—That is so.

1087. Does that practically represent the same properties?—Yes.

1088. You have neither sold nor bought agricultural land to any appreciable extent in that 10 years?—No.

1089. How do you manage this agricultural property; just tell the Committee how you manage it; what the staff is and how it is worked?—It is managed by Mr. Clutton, who is the receiver for the different counties in the south of England; in the several counties in the north of England (there is a line drawn across), it is managed by Mr. Spencer Gore.

1090. Then you have virtually an estate of 70,000 acres of agricultural property under the control of two receivers?—Under the control of two receivers.

1091. Have they any staff under them?—Yes.

1092. What staff?—That I cannot tell you. They find their own staff. I have nothing to do with their staff.

1093. They find their own staff, and do you pay them?—We do not pay their staff; we only pay the receivers.

1094. Do you mean that the receiver pays them?—He is responsible to me for the management, and he pays his own people.

Mr. Isaacs.

1095. Are both the receivers paid by commission?—Both; but they are not paid the same commission quite. I can give you the exact counties if you wish it.

Chairman.

1096. "In order that the figures may be correct under the classified headings, this heading" (that is, "Salary, per-centage, and all other emoluments of each receiver") "includes only the payment made to receivers, &c., as such, and coincides with the headings 'Salaries and per-centage of receivers and stewards of manors' in the accounts annually laid before Parliament, which include allowances for clerks and office expenses. The payments made to the receivers acting as surveyors are included against the heading 'Surveyors, plans, &c.' A supplementary statement is appended, however, show-

Chairman—continued.

ing all the emoluments of each receiver. payments include the personal travelling office expenses of the receivers in the performance of the duties entrusted to them." We deal with that separately afterwards. I do wish to confuse the examination now with that. You have nobody under you in the management of this agricultural property except the receivers, have you?—That is all.

1097. He pays everybody under that?—He pays everybody under that.

1098. Let us go through the various stages. Suppose that a farm is to be let; does the receiver deal exclusively with the application for the tenancy?—Yes, until it is time to come to me to take my opinion or sanction of letting.

1099. Practically, I suppose, you approve what he does?—Yes, generally; I may not do so on all occasions.

1100. Supposing there are two or three tenants after the same farm; who makes the selection?—Supposing he thought them all of equal stability, or equally good tenants, he would come to me and talk it over probably before he made his report.

1101. But are any farms let by tender?—No, a thing has been done, but certainly not latterly. I think it is very undesirable, at least in most cases.

1102. Why do you think it undesirable in most cases?—You get very doubtful proposals from sometimes who apply by tender. We always advertise, or almost invariably, unless some special case comes forward.

1103. You advertise for applications to be sent in?—Yes, for applications to be sent in.

1104. In your advertisement do you fix a rent?—No.

1105. Then practically it is a tender?—Almost a tender.

1106. Does the surveyor make any report to you of this character and say, "I have advertised for tenants for such and such a farm, and have received so many applications; the range from so much to so much; and my opinion is so and so"?—Yes. If he does not put it upon paper he will come and see me, and probably bring the letters with him; but when he comes to report, it would be the best one or two, or it might be three men; but generally speaking it is upon his recommendation that a tenant is chosen, and my approval made of it.

1107. Neither of the receivers devote the whole of their time to the service of the Committee, do they?—No, they need not.

1108. As an experienced and practical landowner do you yourself think it a wise mode of managing an estate, to put 30,000 acres into the hands of a man who does not devote the whole of his time to it; do you think any noble would do so?—Well the Crown property is peculiarly situated; it is so dreadfully scattered, and I think there are many advantages in having receivers who have got other work to do, and therefore have a staff under them.

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

9. But does not it strike you that that is an argument that cuts the other way, that an estate in a ring fence is much more easily managed than an estate that ranges over 10 or 20 counties?—Yes; the consequence is, that in Gore's case in the north, where there are two estates of a large area in a ring fence, as it were, instead of getting four per cent., he only gets one and a half.

10. I am not upon the question of remuneration now, but the question of management, especially as to this letting of farms?—

11. Do you not think that where a man has the control of say 30,000 acres, and does not devote the whole of his time to it, but is engaged in other professional engagements elsewhere, he naturally, necessarily, devolves a great deal of the management upon other officials?—Yes; he must to a certain extent devolve it upon those officials who are under him.

12. To a very great extent?—Well, probably.

13. He might have no personal knowledge or acquaintance with the various localities, and the various applicants for tenancies?—I beg your pardon; he must have that or he could not do the work; at all events he could not do it properly. He must have a very intimate personal acquaintance with the locality, and also he must be acquainted with the character of the neighbourhood, and the people who live in it.

14. Do you not think that taking these applications for tenancies, they are practically in the hands of subordinates still under the receiver?—No. I feel perfectly certain that both receivers under me go into the matter most thoroughly themselves, and nobody else.

15. That is so far as the letting is concerned. When any outlay is wanted for repairs, who decides that?—It is brought before me by the receiver to obtain my sanction; and I have to go to the Treasury for their sanction.

16. That is practically again in the hands of the receiver?—That is practically in the hands of the receiver; but I may say that individually we have visited more than once, in fact I visit every year parts of the estate; I have done that every year since I have been a Commissioner, so I may have some knowledge of what is done for or required.

17. There is an item here of repairs; I suppose that includes repairs upon all the properties?—Yes, I think it does include all properties. I can give you my own I think, if you like to know it.

18. What I should like to have would be the percentage of the cost of collection of this 100 £ odd; that is what I want to get at?—I am afraid I have not got the agricultural land separated from the house property. Upon my collection I can give you the percentage; the agency, management, repairs and improvements, rates and taxes, and other miscellaneous expenditure.

19. Yes, I think we ought to have that?—I can give you the figures now in a very short space of time for the last four years.

103.

Chairman—continued.

1120. I want to keep these figures exclusively to the agricultural property at present?—It would be very difficult I am afraid to divide the two.

Mr. Issacs.

1121. You might analyse the receiver's accounts?—I do not know how to get at it; it would take weeks; it could be done, but it would be a very laborious work.

Chairman.

1122. I do not want to impose anything of that sort upon you. Then donations to churches and schools; I see donations seem to average 5,500 £, 4,500 £, 7,200 £, and they run down, various sums, until last year you have got them down, I think, to a very small sum; I think only about 1,400 £; who settles those donations?—Each Commissioner settles them upon the property that the donations are asked for. Suppose it was, we will say, in a county under Mr. Clutton as Crown Receiver, I should probably refer it to him for any observations he might make; then it would come back to me, and it would be my sole recommendation to the Treasury. I should be entirely responsible.

1123. Is there any principle or any rule which guides the matter?—Yes. I generally take it upon the rating, we will say, of the number of acres in a certain parish of the Crown property. I generally draw my conclusions from that. I cannot say that there are any specific regulations; but from time to time there has been a good deal of correspondence and discussion with those who preceded me in the office. I have read that, and work chiefly upon what has become a sort of custom.

1124. Sir James Campbell told us that they considered under the Act which regulates the Forest of Dean, an Act which was passed in the pre-toleration time, that they had no power to make any donation for religious purposes, except to the Church of England; do you hold that doctrine so far as your estate is concerned?—It is not my doctrine, but I believe it is the decision of the Law Officers of the Crown.

1125. I want to be quite clear about that; is that the legal advice given to the Crown, that the Commissioners have no power to make any donations except to the Church of England for religious purposes?—That is, as I understand, the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown.

1126. Acting under legal advice, and feeling bound by that, you have not felt at liberty to make a donation for any church or school, except churches and schools belonging to the Church of England?—That is so. I believe there is one exception, Burwell, close to Newmarket in Cambridgeshire. I think a donation has been given to that school, which is a British school, ever since 1870. Why the exception was made then I do not know.

Mr. Charles Hall.

1127. Do you know what denomination it is that that school belongs to?—It is called a "British School." I cannot tell you more than that about it.

G

1128. You

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[Conti

Chairman.

1128. You make no free grants to Board Schools?—No.

1129. Do you make any grants for parsonages?—Yes, we have given land for parsonages.

1130. Then may I ask you this; are there not many cases come before you in which, having regard to the position of the Crown property, if your hand was unfettered you would be disposed to make donations which you are now prevented from doing?—Since I have been a Commissioner I do not think I have had an application from anything but Church of England. Perhaps that is because it is well known that others are not given. I do not remember having had one such application.

Mr. Jackson.

1131. I take it that whenever you make a contribution it is rather based upon the proportionate value of your property to the other property within the parish or area?—That is so, we always take that into consideration.

Chairman.

1132. Do you think you have reached the bottom of the reduction of rent?—I sincerely hope so.

1133. I am asking “belief” not “hope?”—If we do not have a better corn harvest this year than we had last, I am afraid things have not reached the bottom.

1134. Have you as much property in hand as you had?—We have really less, I think, than we had. There is a great deal of land belonging to the Crown which formerly was forest; for example, Whichwood Forest in Oxfordshire; Hainault Forest in Essex; which even in the management of it, I sincerely wish had been left in its pristine state of forest; for although the Crown derived a very good rental from it for the first few years after it was broken up, yet owing to its being entirely arable land, and no pasture, now the depression is felt very strongly upon it; and I am afraid it will be some time before we can hope to see it let at any thing but a very low rent.

Mr. Jackson.

1135. It would rather illustrate that point, if you would tell the Committee the particulars of the farms you have in hand at present?—I have a very large farm of nearly 500 acres. Perhaps I have the particulars here. I know the farms of my own personal knowledge.

Mr. Charles Hall.

1136. Have you found no improvement in applications for tenancies?—Oh! yes; I think there is a certain amount of improvement. I may say this, there is one farm on the Crown Stagsden Estate in Bedfordshire (that is property which was bought by the Crown, not so very long ago) of 223½ acres. That has been in hand since Michaelmas 1881. It is chiefly arable clay land; and although it has been advertised from time to time I may say that there has been hardly a “nibble” for it.

Mr. Isaacs.

1137. Has it been running to waste all this time?—Oh! dear no; it is cultivated.

Mr. Isaacs—continued.

1138. By whom; by the department the department; and there is another generally when these farms come in hand come in hand very much run out and very impoverished. This farm certainly in the few years is very much improved; but still are no applications for it, or there has been no application which I could take. Then there is another farm of 490 acres (which is the one I meant to refer to) in Whichwood, in the county of Oxford; that came in hand at Michaelmas 1887. The tenant died and it was in the hands of trustees; they could not continue it, and had to take it over a year before the lease expired. That is purely arable. There are 10 acres of grass upon it; but for that I had no application whatever. That is on those cold clay lands.

Chairman.

1139. Rather bad land, is it not, to be put to pasture upon it?—It is, very.

1140. Is not that an undesirable property for any body to take?—Extremely; but when the land was disafforested, when the forest was cut in the days when wheat was at a very high price it paid the tenants no doubt, the first few years remarkably well. Then there is the Hainault farm. I have a very large farm coming in hand there at Michaelmas. I hope to let it, even at a very reduced rent, rather than take it in hand. There is not an acre of grass there. It is within 14 miles of London.

Mr. Jackson.

1141. That makes up a total of how many acres in hand?—1,178.

Mr. Isaacs.

1142. Of which nearly one-half is contained in the farm to which you have referred of 490 acres?—Yes.

Chairman.

1143. That is a very small percentage of the total, is it not, having regard to the rest of the property?—I think so.

1144. I think that any great landowner or nobleman with an estate of 70,000 acres would consider himself very lucky if he had 1,100 acres in hand?—I think he may consider himself lucky. Also, I may say that besides the 365 remaining of the 1,178 acres is situated in Wingland, in the counties of Lincoln and Norfolk. That is reclaimed land which has been laid down the last three or four years to pasture, and up to the present time has paid; of course there is some difficulty in letting it, but it is merely grass in a very isolated place like that.

Mr. Isaacs.

1145. Reclaimed from the sea, do you mean?—Reclaimed from the sea.

Chairman.

1146. The bulk of those 1,178 acres in hand are those two farms on which there is no pasture land at all?—That is so. I may say two farms, because there are the 365 acres of this Wingland estate without any fa

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Chairman—continued.

buildings upon it, and which is simply laid to grass.

Mr. Jackson.

7. Have you any knowledge of what a estate, such as the Chairman has referred could cost in repairs and management and tion; the percentage?—No, I am afraid I never ascertained that from any of the estates. It depends so much upon how are situate, and the locality. Those that a ring fence can do it cheaper than those e properties are scattered, even about the county.

Mr. Isaacs.

8. At page 134 of the Appendix to the Report, you give the Windsor rents re- l for 1887-88 at 2,278 l. 3 s. 5 d.?—Yes.

9. Does that include the rent received from Ascot Grand Stand?—Yes.

10. Could you tell us what that Grand rent is?—£. 221, I think it is.

11. Does that payment give the company or trustees the entire right to charge for the sion to the meeting at the Grand Stand, and enclosure?—The trustees of the Grand have nothing to do with the enclosure.

12. Nothing?—No, they have jurisdiction their own property only, the Grand Stand ne enclosure round it.

13. Then for the payment of 220 l. in rent, expenditure in keeping up the building, have the exclusive right to make the charges they for admission to the Grand Stand?— e no power to interfere with them.

14. You cannot control them in any way?— built the Stand.

15. They built the Stand of course. Coming to the 70,000 acres in round figures of a agricultural property, which you say is in unties in England, I take it that that is y left to the management of the two ers?—Yes.

16. Can you say how they divide the 70,000 between them?—Yes.

17. Is it by counties?—Yes, by counties. Spencer Gore's division comprises the land es of the counties of Chester, Cumberland, y, Durham, Lancaster, Northumberland, gham, Westmoreland, and York, except roved rents, and under-sea mines.

18. Will you kindly add the acreage?—The amount of his collection is about 38,000 l.

19. That is the money; but will you give acreage?—I ought to have the acreage mewhere.

20. If you cannot find it, for present we tent ourselves with the money received. 00 l. be received by Mr. Gore, taking the receipts at 85,000 l., that would leave l. to be received by Mr. Clutton?—Mr. n's collection is about 80,000 l. a year.

Chairman.

21. You must not mix them up; we must ow to the agricultural property?—That is ulty.

22. There will be no difficulty in supplying 103.

Chairman—continued.

the Committee with the acreage will there?—No, I have got it somewhere, but cannot put my hand upon it.

1163. We must have the acreage of each receiver; then take the farm rents of 81,000 l. separately; then you can get what each receiver takes on farm rents?—Quite so.

Mr. Isaacs.

1164. I presume that in the division of those estates certain counties are allocated to one receiver, and certain other counties to the other one; all, say to the north of a line, put into the hands of Mr. Gore, and all south of that line put into the hands of Mr. Clutton?—Yes; I have given the counties that Mr. Gore has, and can give you the counties that Mr. Clutton has.

Chairman.

1165. Please do that now so that we may get them on the Notes?—I cannot find them here at the moment; but he has all the rest except Middlesex.

Mr. Isaacs.

1166. And Middlesex is in the hands of whom?—The receiver for Middlesex is in the office, Mr. Higgins.

1167. The department of Woods and Forests?—Yes.

1168. Coming to the depreciation in the revenue which we made out to be about 33 per cent., from your knowledge of the depreciation that has taken place in agricultural values, do you think that the Crown has suffered more severely than any other landlord in that respect?—No, I do not, considering the nature of a great deal of the land that belongs to the Crown.

1169. Having regard to the character of the land?—The character of the soil.

1170. The clay soil to which you referred just now, the cold character of the soil. You do not think that that reduction is excessive as compared with the reductions which other landlords have suffered?—I do not. I think I may state here, from what I have learnt since I have been at the office, and from having gone over, I may say, every farm, I think, throughout the whole of the area under my jurisdiction, that it strikes me, the Crown at one time received very high rents for some of their land; but I think the moment the depression showed itself the tenants were very properly dealt with, not only those who held from year to year, but those who held leases, by having reductions, or first of all allowances, made to them.

1171. Practically it has come to this: that where land was fetching in your department 30 s. an acre you are glad now to get 20 s. for it?—Very glad indeed, or less.

Mr. Samuelson.

1172. What is the length of the lease which the trustees have got for the Grand Stand or land at Ascot?—I cannot tell you off-hand. I can get it for you, of course.

1173. It would be a good thing to know that. Are there any other inclosures for which you get rent besides the Grand Stand?—No. I get rent for the heath; a small rent from the Master of the Buckhounds.

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[Continued]

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

1174. For instance, there are inclosures like the Four-in-hand Club?—That is entirely under the management of the Master of the Buckhounds. He rents the heath from me, or from my department, and of course he makes his own regulations about that.

1175. You do not know then what is the length of the lease of the Grand Stand?—No, I can find it out; but I cannot tell you off-hand. I should say that, as far as I know, it is about 30 or 40 years.

Mr. Jackson.

1176. It is practically a ground-rent that you get?—That is it; it is like what I get for the houses on the other side of the course in the same way.

Mr. Charles Hall.

1177. Your attention was called to an item with regard to food for deer. I understood you to say that that was an exceptional amount; was it?—Very exceptional.

1178. In consequence of the severe winter and cold spring?—It was a dry summer, a cold winter, and a very late spring.

1179. Therefore it was necessary to give them hay and other food?—Yes, and beans.

1180. Now about the Windsor Park. I suppose you have not the knowledge, and are not able so well as the surveyor, to give us information about the use of Windsor Park by the public; it is used a great deal, I believe, is it not, by the public?—A great deal. Of course he can give you better knowledge than I can, because I only visit occasionally, and it is very increasing use you must remember.

1181. So I understand?—It is a very increasing use.

1182. Now with regard to the item for the sale of wood; I see on the other side a very considerable item for wood; that is used for lodges?—For buildings, fences, gates, and fuel.

1183. Yes; that comes to a large amount, does it not?—£. 639. 9 s. 7 d. for that year. I may say that it appears on the other side of the account also, because it would be in the maintenance and general management. It would be used for all that.

Mr. Issacs.

1184. In that item of 650 l.?—Yes, mostly in that, I suppose; in fact in several of those items that appear there.

Mr. Charles Hall.

1185. You say keys are given to residents in the neighbourhood; they of course are people who use the drives and roads more than the general public, do they not?—Yes, because they have access to the grass rides.

1186. Therefore they pay the guinea for the use of those keys?—Since the beginning of this year.

1187. I suppose I may take it that the amenities, if I may say so, of Windsor Park greatly enhance the value of property in the immediate

Mr. Charles Hall—continued.

neighbourhood, do they not?—I should say considerably.

1188. Therefore such land as you do let for building purposes, or residential purposes, gives a much higher return than it would otherwise?—Certainly. It is more valuable. I may say about the keys that some of the keys have been lost; perhaps they were given to somebody who lived just outside the park (say 15 or 20 years ago), and they have been found and used by people probably who may not have had a key given to them; therefore I think this as a wholesome check (although I believe it has not met with favour down there), upon those who hold the keys, and “wholesome” therefore if for that alone.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

1189. I want to ask you one question about Table C., in the Appendix, in the Papers which have been handed in by Mr. Culley: “A Return of the Income and Expenditure of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests for the last 10 years”; there is a heading under the title “Deductions, Losses (Irrecoverable), Amount Discharged,” for each of those years; and in the year 1879 I see a very large amount, 92,300 l. I think, under that head. Can you explain that occurred?—I am afraid I cannot. I have not seen this Return until I have been in the room; 1879 was before I was a Commissioner. I am afraid I cannot give you any information about that; 1887 is another very high one.

1190. Nothing as compared to that other year? No; I can only say as regards 1887, that I think those are principally rents that have been hanging on for some time, and it was thought desirable to ask permission to strike them off arrears, because there was no chance of getting them. I went into that, I think, in 1887; but I have no knowledge of 1879. It does not affect me only; it is the gross amount from Mr. Culley's department and mine.

Mr. Jackson.

1191. But it is exceptionally large that year and it would be well if the Committee were informed as to the detail of it?—1879; we are quite certain about it.

1192. Will you put in afterwards?—Yes.

Chairman.

1193. Then in addition to this agricultural property about which we have been talking, we have 450 houses and buildings let at rack rents or at rents that have been fined down?—They have been fined down.

1194. How many of those are in Middlesex?—Three hundred.

1195. Where are the remainder?—They are distributed through 12 different counties in England.

1196. What is the aggregate amount of the rents?—In 1887-88 they were about 63,600 l.

1197-9. Are these separate from farms and so on?—Yes.

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

200. How is it that the Crown has come into possession of property of this description; houses, rack-rents?—There are some in London, I suppose the largest proportion of this 450.

201. And 300 are in Middlesex; do you mean outside London?—Yes; I should think those 300 are nearly all in London. About 302 houses would come under that category in Middlesex.

202. You have some property at Blackheath?—Yes.

203. Eltham?—Yes.

204. Dover?—Yes.

205. Richmond?—Yes.

206. Windsor?—Windsor.

207. I am not asking about the ground-rents; I am asking about the rack-rents?—Yes, there are some houses where the ground-rents have run up; they would be included in those.

208. Have you any statement as to what the rack-rents of those houses cost, and what the cost of repairing is?—I think they are almost without exception under lease, and therefore there are no rack-rents for repairs.

209. You mean tenants' repairing leases?—Yes.

210. They would average, I see, about 120 l. a year, would they not; that amount represents each house?—Yes, I think they vary very much. The character of that property varies very much.

211. It is a substantial property; is the same rule observed with reference to the letting of these houses, repairs, and collection of rents, as in regard to the agricultural property?—Yes, the same.

212. But you have separate receivers of the rents in Middlesex and London?—There is one receiver for Middlesex.

213. Does he receive the London rents too?—Yes.

214. I will come back to that afterwards. About the ground-rents; how many houses have been erected by leasees on land let for building purposes?—Five thousand seven hundred and eighty.

215. How many of those are in Middlesex?—Four thousand three hundred.

216. Where are the rest?—They are situated in seven different counties, the principal being Berkshire, Kent, and Surrey, and from this part the rents received in 1887-88 were about 5,712 l.

217. Who receives those rents?—In the county of Middlesex, Mr. Higgins; in the other counties mentioned, Mr. Clutton.

218. Then really all your rents are received either Mr. Gore, Mr. Clutton, or Mr. Higgins?—That is so; with the exception of Mr. Ammonds, the Deputy Surveyor at Windsor, who receives the rent of a very small portion of the park.

219. Then the next item of your property is woods and minerals?—Yes.

220. Where are they situated?—The mines are in Northumberland, York, Durham, and Cumberland, and there are under-sea metallic mines in Cornwall.

221. You are not giving us anything that belongs to the Duchy of Cornwall?—No; and 0.103.

Chairman—continued.

there are iron-ore mines in Lancaster, as well as mines in Durham and Yorkshire, and stone quarries at Portland.

1222. What is the gross rental of that property?—The gross rental amounted in 1887-88 to 16,206 l.

1223. What is your next item of property?—Miscellaneous items, such as foreshores that were not transferred to the Board of Trade by the Crown Lands Act of 1866, the letting of sporting rights, and there may be some other little things. These are scattered over 23 different counties. The principal receipt, perhaps, is from the Thames Conservators, who, under the provisions of the Thames Conservancy Acts, have to pay to my department a portion of the moneys they derive from certain parts of the tidal portions of the River Thames.

1224. How much does it amount to?—This class of property amounts to 9,051 l.

1225-6. How much of the 9,051 l. was paid by the Thames Conservancy?—About 3,000 l. was received in 1887-88.

1227. £. 3,000?—Yes, about 3,000 l.

1228. Has the Crown any manors or manorial rights?—Yes, they have the manors and the manorial rights in 12 counties. The two principal manors are the honour and manor of Hampton Court in the county of Middlesex, and the manor of Richmond in Surrey. The receipts from quit-rents and fines in the year 1887-88 amounted to about 2,653 l.

1229. You say the manor of Richmond; that does not include Richmond Park, does it?—No, it is all outside Richmond Park.

1230. Is Richmond Park under the control of the First Commissioner of Works; have you anything to do with Richmond Park?—Nothing whatever. I have property outside of it, and I have this manor.

1231. Then is there anything in addition?—Timber and underwood on various estates.

1232. I suppose that is on the estates you have already given us; I mean it is on the agricultural property?—Only partly. I have two, I can hardly call them forests, but large plantations in Northamptonshire which are separate. There is Salcey Forest, and Hazleborough Forest.

1233. Are they put separately in your Report?—Yes, at page 124.

1234. Northampton, Hazleborough, and Salcey; is that all houses?—Yes.

1235. In 1887-88 they produced 2,286 l.?—Yes.

1236. What is the total of the timber producing property?—£. 5,958. That was in 1887-88. This year it is not quite so much. For 1888-89 it is 5,279 l.

1237. What is the acreage of those plantations?—Stagsden 139 acres; Eltham 171 acres; Hazleborough 489; Salcey 1,260; and Esher 861; 61 acres also of wood at Poyning in Sussex; and in Northumberland 871 acres, called the Chopwell Woods; and in Cheshire, Delamere Forest 2,270 acres. The two I may say, are, as regards the growth of timber, very inferior.

1238. I have a note here (is this right), that the plantations under your charge are about 6,154

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

6,154 acres, in 10 counties, and they produced last year, you say, about 5,279 *l.*, and the year before last about 6,000 *l.*—That is so.

1239. Now what does it cost to procure that money from this timber?—I am afraid I have not got that.

1240. Can you tell us what these various plantations cost?—I can give it you here, I think. For instance, Stagsden, the total receipts were 301 *l.*; total payments—

1241. *£*. 293; 8 *l.* profit?—I have them for each year, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889; the receipts and the payments.

1242. I should like it from 1888, if you can give it us?—For 1888 the Stagsden receipts were 5 *l.* 11 *s.* 2 *d.*, payments 90 *l.* 2 *s.* 11 *d.* Eltham: the receipts were 817 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d.*, the payments 6 *l.* 1 *s.* 9 *d.* Esher: the receipts were 720 *l.*, the payments were 357 *l.* Poynings: the receipts were 212 *l.*, the payments 32 *l.* Salcey: the receipts were 1,709 *l.*, and the payments 690 *l.* Hazelborough: the receipts were 566 *l.*, and the payments 209 *l.* Chopwell, there was no receipts, and the payments were 133 *l.* 14 *s.* 8 *d.* Delamere: the receipts were 805 *l.*, and the payments 566 *l.*

1243. Wiltshire; Bishops Cannings?—There is nothing in Wiltshire; no plantation.

1244. What is the gross total of those you have given us?—For 1888?

1245. I have got Bishops Canning estate, and Bromham estate in Wiltshire, the one producing 262 *l.* and the other 170 *l.*, making a total of 432 *l.*?—Timber was cut down in the hedgerows. There is no actual forest. There is no wood there I may say.

1246. What I understand is that those plantations are separate from other Crown property; they are simply plantations by themselves?—Yes, those I have named.

1247. Not near any farms?—There may be farms all round them; there may or may not. For instance, at Delamere; there are farms nearly all round Delamere.

1248. That makes up the total of the property under your control?—That does.

1249. Those seven items include the whole of your property?—Yes.

1250. You have already told us that the rents of the northern division are received by Mr. Spencer Gore?—Yes.

1251. Not so the northern division. You gave, in reply to Mr. Isaacs, the counties, which are Chester, Cumberland, Derby, Durham, Lancaster, Northumberland, Nottingham, Westmoreland, and York?—Yes.

1252. He does not receive however the rents in respect of mines under-sea?—No.

1253. Mr. Gore was appointed in 1880?—He was.

1254. Is he steward of the Crown manors within these counties as well?—He is.

1255. What is Mr. Gore's remuneration?—His remuneration as receiver is fixed by his appointment, and it is 2½ per cent. upon the receipts from estates in the parishes of Sunk Island, Swine, and Waghen, in the county of York, from coal and certain other minerals; and it is 4 per cent. on other receipts.

Chairman—continued.

1256. Why does he get only 2½ per cent. rather, why does he get 4 per cent. on the properties and 2½ on other properties?—Because those two properties on which he receives 2 per cent. are of a considerable acreage, in a fence, and therefore when his appointment was made, it was considered that he would not get much out of pocket by visiting and having control of those estates as he would in the case of the others.

1257. What other emoluments has Mr. Gore?—He has a salary of 52 *l.* 10 *s.* each year, in addition to a poundage of 4 per cent. for the collection of the rents and the management of some of the estates in Delamere, which contain 2,270 acres.

1258. What is the gross amount which Mr. Gore collects?—About 38,000 *l.*

1259. About 38,000 *l.* a year. Now, what is the gross amount of Mr. Gore's emoluments?—You will find on page 9 of the statement made in by Mr. Culley (I have it here), that for the year he received as receiver 1,152 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.* as surveyor 316 *l.* 16 *s.* 3 *d.*, and a fee of two guineas in connection with something else, making a total of 1,471 *l.* 9 *s.* 9 *d.*?—That is so.

1260. Is that everything he receives?—Yes, that is everything.

1261. Has he anything to pay out of that?—He has everything to pay as regards the management of the estates he keeps to work under him.

1262. Can you tell us what that is?—I have not an idea.

1263. Can you get from Mr. Gore what his outlay is?—You had better examine Mr. Culley's statement; had you not?

1264. Well, we will do so. I do not want to have any mistake about this. It is perfectly clear that this is the gross total of his receipts, is it?—Yes.

1265. He has no fees, no allowances; nothing else?—No; not that I am aware of; nothing.

Mr. Isaacs.

1266. Are any travelling expenses allowed to Mr. Gore?—No; I believe there is an allowance for postage.

Chairman.

1267. I see his gross remuneration varies as high as 2,700 *l.*, and has gone down to 1,471 *l.* 9 *s.* 9 *d.*, and out of that he has to defray the whole of his expenses; but he is allowed to carry on his profession as a land agent?—I think it right to point out to the Committee that the receipts of both have been paid by a percentage diminishing as the rents fall, and yet I have no hesitation in saying that I should think it would have ten times the work to do now as when the actual collection of the agricultural rents was what they had when times were prosperous. It may say is the case with my own department. We have a great deal more to do in the present time than when times were prosperous. The properties were all under lease, and really and truly there was no trouble, when leases might happen to fall in.

1268. Is the commission calculated upon the actual receipt, or calculated upon the rents?—On the actual receipts.

1269. How do you do in the case of a

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Chairman—continued.

think unless they are actually collected there percentage; that is so.

270. Then suppose the Treasury sanctioned wiping off of a certain sum of arrears, no payment is paid upon that?—No.

271. Where is Mr. Gore's residence?—His residence is in Whitehall-place.

272. I mean in the country?—He did live at Wandswoth.

273. Is it in the north of England that he lives?—It is practically in London. I think he lives at Wandsworth.

274. Where is the place or office in the various counties to which the tenants can go. They have not to come to London to him, have they, for every application they have to make?—No; of course they know when Mr. Gore is at that part of the country where to address him.

275. Then has he no office in either Cheshire, Lancashire, Westmoreland, Cumberland, Yorkshire, or any of those counties?—As a matter of fact, I think, he has at Chester, and at Darlington.

276. Who receives the rents?—He does.

277. Does he pay them into his own account or bank?—Yes; into a separate account. Each receiver has a separate account for what they receive for the Crown, and they keep a separate bank-book.

278. How long is it since that was done?—Three or four years I think now.

279. I think it was done since the Committee of Public Accounts called the attention of Parliament to the fact that it was not so?—It is.

280. That is to say that the receivers paid their rentals into their private accounts, and kept them in hand for some considerable time, is not that so?—No; not the latter.

Mr. Jackson.

281. There was one instance, was not there, where that had been the case?—That is on Mr. Clutton's side. It was not on my side, I think.

Chairman.

282. Now they are not allowed to pay the money into their private accounts at all, are they?—They are not.

283. They must pay it to a separate account?—They must pay it to a separate account, and keep a separate bank-book, which can be produced, and is produced when required.

284. When vouched?—When vouched.

285. Who does Mr. Gore pay his receipts to?—He pays them into my office. He pays in so much on account, or whatever it is.

286. Does he pay it to you or to the Bank of England, or what?—It is paid through the accountant in my office into the Bank of England.

287. Does your accountant check his bank-book?—I think not. The Receiver General is the party who actually sees the accounts and the bank-book. The Receiver General receives the money, and the accounts are examined in my department.

103.

Chairman—continued.

the money, and the accounts are examined in my department.

1288. Who examines the banking account?—The Receiver General can examine it.

1289. It is not "can"; I want to know who does?—When the accounts are examined, we, that is to say, my department, examine it, and the Auditor General examines it.

1290. I want to see under what item in the account comes in interest upon the bank balances?—There is none.

1291. A man does not receive 40,000 *l.* a year without having some interest upon it?—They pay it over to me (or they are supposed to pay it over to me) directly it becomes due: they do not keep it a week. They are bound by their conditions to pay in as they receive.

1292-94. The collector is receiving money all the year round, is not he?—Yes.

1295. The business of the Receiver General is simply to receive the money tendered to him on behalf of the Crown, is it?—That is it.

1296. He has nothing to do with asking where it comes from. I want to know what department or what officer checks the history of those payments from the time when the tenant pays the money until the time the Bank of England gets it?—If Mr. Gore is the receiver his accounts come in monthly and his payments come in oftener.

1297. He renders monthly accounts?—He renders monthly accounts, which are checked in my department and compared with what he has paid in, and of course those all go eventually to the Auditor General.

1298. How many banking accounts does he keep?—Mr. Gore?

1299. Yes?—Only one for the Crown.

1300. Where is it?—I cannot tell you where it is kept; that is to say, what bank it is kept at. I happen to know Mr. Clutton's, but I do not know Mr. Gore's.

1301. Then the land revenues situate in the remaining counties of England which are the southern and midland counties are in the receipt of Mr. Clutton?—That is so.

1302. When was Mr. Clutton first appointed receiver?—Receiver for Surrey in 1850; and then in 1851 his receivership was extended, and again in 1853, and finally in July 1877 his appointment was made a consolidated one and cancelled all the former ones.

1303. Now what is Mr. Clutton's remuneration?—His remuneration is fixed, and consists of the poundage of 4 per cent.; a salary of 42 *l.*, in addition to a similar poundage for the management of the two woods, Hazleborough and Saleey, in the county of Northampton; and in addition to these, Mr. Clutton is paid certain fixed fees for the superintendence and carrying on of the farms that may be in hand, and the purchase and sale of stock, &c., and the necessary expenses connected with those.

1304. Then Mr. Clutton acts as a bailiff as well as a receiver?—Yes, to a certain extent.

1305. But I suppose Mr. Clutton is hardly carrying on a farm that is situated in Northamptonshire or Yorkshire, is he?—When we get a farm in hand we appoint a bailiff.

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1306 Exactly

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[Com

Chairman—continued.

1306. Exactly, and that bailiff have you to pay?—That bailiff we have to pay.

1307. Can you tell me why Mr. Clutton is to have another fee for that?—He has to visit the farm. It is under his superintendence. We appoint what we may call a working bailiff. Mr. Clutton is responsible for the carrying on of that farm, and the buying in of stock, and the selling of it. He probably would have to visit it eight or nine times a year, instead of simply as receiver visiting it once or twice or three times.

1308. Let me put this case to you; do you think that any nobleman who had an agent, and had any farm thrown upon his hands into which he had put a bailiff, would give an additional payment to his agent that year for the superintendence of that part of his estate?—That, again, depends very much, I think, upon the situation. If this were an outlying property, and he had to send his agent to it often (which he probably would wish to do), he would probably give him some extra remuneration for so doing.

1309. Take a nobleman like the Duke of Cleveland, who has estates in a great many counties, do you think he would pay an extra remuneration where farms were thrown upon his hands?—I think he would. I know, in my own case, having an agent and a bailiff in one, that when I had a farm thrown upon my hands I gave him something extra for looking after it, and put a foreman in as well.

1310. I do not want that to be confused, where the agent and bailiff is in one I can quite understand it. What I understand is this, you appoint where the farms are in hand a competent bailiff?—A working bailiff.

1311. Tell me what you pay him, what do you give him?—Sometimes 15 s. or 1 l. a week, and sometimes more. It depends upon the size of the farm.

1312. One thousand one hundred acres you have now got in hand; what do you pay the bailiffs who have the management of that 1,100 acres?—It is different in the different cases.

1313. I want to know the actual amount that is paid?—I think the man at Whichwood in Oxfordshire, which is a 590-acre farm gets, I do not know whether it is 2 l. 10 s. or 3 l. a week; and at Stagsden in Bedfordshire it is under 2 l.; I forget what it is. Wingland is very much less than that. I think we give the neighbouring farmer 20 l., I think it is, or 25 l. a year merely to look after it.

1314. Give me that large farm, the farm you mentioned in Essex I think, was it not?—That is Whichwood.

1315. You are paying a man 150 l. a year for being a bailiff?—That would be about it.

1316. In addition to that 150 l. extra on that farm for its management you also give Mr. Clutton a fixed fee for the superintendence of that farm?—Yes.

1317. Can you tell us what the amount of that fee is?—I think I can. It is a new arrangement that was made under the sanction of the Treasury, and which was to depend upon the

Chairman—continued.

locality chiefly. I have got the fees for three farms. On Whichwood Mr. Clutton gets 52 l.

Mr. Jackson.

1318. What was the rent of Whichwood when it was let?—When it came into hand it was 400 l. a year. It had been very much reduced.

Chairman.

1319. It was 400 l. a year?—At the time it came into hand.

1320. Now it is thrown upon your hands, you give a man 150 l. a year for acting as a bailiff, and you give somebody else 52 l. for superintending the 150 l., what was the proceeds of that farm?—Since we have had it in hand?

1321. Yes; last year say?—I will not say I am right about what we give the bailiff. I have put it, I think, at rather a low figure than we do give; but that was the impression.

1322. I suppose you give him a house?—Not you?—Yes, he gets the farm-house.

1323. He gets the farm-house, 150 l. a year, and I suppose some other things as well?—Nothing.

1324. No land?—There may be the garden.

Mr. Jackson.

1325. But of course he is appointed temporarily until a tenant can be found?—That is all. We only take him from week to week, month to month. For instance, at Stagsden where there are 409 acres, Mr. Clutton gets 38 l. 10 s. The rent when it came into hand was 415 l.; and for Wingland, where there are 483 acres and 473 acres, and where the rent was 850 l. and 1,029 l., he gets 81 l.

Chairman.

1326. Have you got the receipts?—I can show you the receipts and expenditure of the farms in hand; which shall I take?

1327. The Oxfordshire one where the rent is getting 3 l. a week, and which Mr. Clutton gets 52 l. a year for managing; I want to know what the receipt is?—The expenditure on the farm, that is, when we had to pay the incoming tenant, was 2,651 l. Of course the first year we received nothing you may say; 1 l. the second year the expenditure was 2,577 l. we received 1,637 l.

1328. You lost on that?—At present, of course, we lose. Then there is the value of the stock remaining in hand, which we also take into account. That on 31st October 1888 was valued at 2,650 l.

1329. When you went in it was 2,650 l.

1330. That is about 800 l. more then?

1331. In how many years?—In only one year or only a year and a half. I can give you the figures for Stagsden.

1332. I do not think we need trouble you with any other; I just wanted to see the principle of the thing. Is Mr. Clutton the steward of your manors?—Yes.

1333. How many manors is he steward of?

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Colonel KINGSCOTE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

steward of several Crown manors in the
ies in which he is receiver, and which
rises the list contained in my statement, a
of which you have before you.

4. He receives the steward's fees of all
manors?—He receives no remuneration;
ollects any fees there may be.

5. But there are fees paid to the steward
very manor?—The deputy steward gets
The steward gets nothing for those.

6. He gets nothing for those at all?—No.

7. What is the gross amount that is col-
1?—£. 80,000 a year.

8. What is the gross amount of his remun-
ion. I will just go through the 14 years,
a please. I will begin with 1875?—£. 6,678.

9. In 1876?—£. 6,084.

10. In 1877?—£. 6,250.

11. In 1878?—£. 6,900.

12. In 1879?—£. 6,726.

13. In 1880?—£. 6,547.

14. In 1881?—£. 5,729.

15. In 1882?—£. 6,276.

16. In 1883?—£. 6,434.

17. In 1884?—£. 7,032.

18. How was it he had so large an amount

84, which was a year of great agricultural
ession?—I think up to this time he was paid,
he next year, upon the gross receipts, before
change was made.

19. In 1883, his per-centage as receiver was
4,086 £.?—I have 6,434 £.

20. I am taking the per-centage as receiver?
s.

21. That is only part of his income?—Yes;
your pardon.

22. In 1884 it springs up to 4,673 £.?—

23. Is not that per-centage on arrears?—
I think not, not on arrears of rent; but it
on the amounts that were allowed.

24. Exactly?—But that is not arrears.

25. What I want to ascertain is this: that
e the Crown made an allowance to a tenant
is rent, did they or did they not pay Mr.
on 4 per cent. upon the amount of that
ance?—Up to a certain time.

26. They did pay it?—Yes. They do not
I know.

27. I am coming to that directly. I had
thing to do with their not doing it, and I
that up to a certain time they did do it?—
did.

28. We will go on with the figures now from
In 1884, the year of great agricultural
ession, it reached 7,032 £. 12 s.?—Yes.

29. What did he get in 1885?—£. 7,533.

30. In 1886 I am pleased to say there was
up, as I see from the figures?—£. 5,900.

31. In 1887?—£. 5,319.

32. And in 1888?—£. 5,200.

33. Now may I take it that in 1886, 1887,
1888 that drop is explained by the Treasury
ose three years declining to allow Mr. Clutton
mission upon the allowances or arrears, and
ng him take his commission only upon the
unt actually received?—Yes, that is so, I

103.

Mr. Jackson.

1364. Are you quite sure about that; that that
explains the whole difference?—No.

1365. You had better be clear about it?—I
think I said before that I thought it was in 1885
that it was determined.

Chairman.

1366. In 1886 I think it was determined?—
From my knowledge I may say it was far better,
and would help the tenants more, to reduce the
rents permanently than to give big reductions,
because then their farms were assessed at a lower
rate; hence the collection of rent was much less,
and Mr. Clutton's per-centage fell.

1367. You see before the agricultural depres-
sion commenced you have got him receiving
6,600 £. a year, and in the very height of it, 10
years afterwards, you have got him receiving
7,500 £. a year, and then it drops to 5,900 £. Was
not that reduction made by ceasing to pay the
commission?—I think it was settled by the Treas-
ury in 1886-87. I cannot remember the exact
time, but I believe it was in 1886-87 that the
per-centage should only be received upon what
was collected and not upon allowances.

1368. Then this last year 1888 his entire
emoluments amounted to 5,200 £.?—That is so.

1369. Do you know what he has to pay out of
that 5,200 £. for staff?—No, I have not an idea.

1370. But he provides everything out of that?
—He provides everything, except that I think
he receives a sum, as I have said, for postage.

1371. Well, that we shall want when he comes.
Do you know the acreage that that 80,000 £.
represents?—Roughly speaking, exclusive of
foreshore, about 52,700 acres; and Mr. Gore's
I can give you now, 16,700 acres.

1372. Fifty thousand acres?—52,700 is the
number of Mr. Clutton's.

1373. Can you tell us from your own know-
ledge what the usual salary paid by the principal
large landowners is to their chief agent?—No, I
cannot indeed; not to be at all definite.

1374. You cannot tell us what the Duke of
Northumberland pays?—No, I have no know-
ledge at all, or what the Duke of Bedford pays.

1375. Or the Duke of Bedford?—No. He
would have several agents. I do not suppose
that any landed proprietor has got his property
so terribly scattered as the Crown has.

1376. We come now to the collection of the
rents in Middlesex. The revenue in Middlesex,
includes, I suppose, the London property as well,
does it?—Yes.

1377. That is collected by Mr. Higgins you
have told us?—It is.

1378. Mr. Higgins is Receiver General and
paymaster of your department?—That is so.

1379. What rents does he collect in addition
to those of Middlesex?—He collects rents and
royalties arising from under-sea mines, and a
few other items.

1380. All the receipts of the Office of Woods
pass through his hands?—Yes.

1381. Can you tell us the gross collection of
of Mr. Higgins?—Only on my side?

1382. Yes?—£. 264,000.

1383. Only on your side upwards of a quarter

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of

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Colonel KINGSCOTE.

[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

of a million, 264,000 *l.* a year?—Yes; that is as receiver.

1384. Does he receive anything on Mr. Culley's side?—Yes, I think he does.

1385. How much?—For a few under-sea mines only I think.

1386. We will take it on your side only, 264,000 *l.* per annum; now will you tell us what Mr. Higgins' remuneration is?—He gets 960 *l.* a year, and 100 *l.* a year for clerical assistance; and as Receiver General he has also an assistant at a salary of 400 *l.* a year.

1387. And he devotes the whole of his time to the department?—Yes; he is a departmental officer.

1388. Then for a gross payment of 1,400 *l.* a year, out of which he has to provide clerical assistance, and out of which he has to pay an

Chairman—continued.

assistant who receives 400 *l.* a year; Mr. Higgins receives a gross revenue of 264,000 *l.*?—Yes.

1389. And may I ask whether he manages the property under that?—No, nothing.

1390. There is no management included in that figure?—No.

1391. Simply receiving?—He has simply to sit in his office and receive it, or he may send some one occasionally.

1392. Mr. Higgins, I presume, pays the whole of his money direct to the Receiver General?—Yes.

1393. Day by day?—I think he pays it straight into the Bank of England.

1394. Yes; it stops nowhere?—No.

1395. It goes straight from Mr. Higgins to the Bank of England?—Straight from Mr. Higgins to the Bank of England.

Friday, 28th June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.

Sir William Harcourt.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Arthur Williams.

MR. HENRY H. FOWLER, IN THE CHAIR.

Colonel ROBERT NIGEL FITZHARDINGE KINGSCOTE, C.B., called in; and further Examined.

Chairman.

106. I THINK when we broke off last time we were discussing the arrangements of Mr. Higgins' receivership?—Yes, we were.

107. Have you ascertained what Mr. Higgins receives under Mr. Culley's "side"?—No, I do not.

108. We had better have that now; Mr. Culley can tell us that. (To Mr. Culley.) Last time we asked Colonel Kingscote whether Mr. Higgins received anything on your side; he said no, for some under-sea mines only; can you tell us the exact figure?—I can get it.

109. We have it that he receives under Colonel Kingscote 264,000 *l.* a year; I want to know the entire receipt under Mr. Higgins?—It is 100 *l.* a year.

110. That is all?—Yes.

111. Then practically the whole that Mr. Higgins receives is under the control of Colonel Kingscote. (To Colonel Kingscote.) With reference to the management of the London property, what Mr. Higgins has nothing whatever to do with?—Nothing whatever.

112. Now will you tell us how the London property is managed?—In what respect?

113. Who manages it?—I am responsible for the management of it.

114. I mean who is the professional man?—The surveyor, Mr. Arthur Cates.

115. When was Mr. Cates appointed; we want to get the date of his appointment first?—He was appointed in 1870, I believe.

116. Now will you tell us what his duties are?—The duties are as surveyor and architect. He is paid for his services according to a scale, the usual professional charges. His duties are not only those of a surveyor, and advising as to the granting of leases on the London property. He is also consulted if any purchase or sale is made in London.

117. Practically Mr. Cates has in his hands the letting and re-letting of the whole of the London property; is that so?—Under the Commission.

118. I mean under the Commissioner; I am not a Commissioner.

Chairman—continued.

not in any way impugning your authority over him; what I want to know is, who is the official who does for the London property what Mr. Clutton does for the country property?—Mr. Cates.

1409. Will you tell us what Mr. Cates' remuneration amounts to; can you refer me to the page in the Report or Accounts in which it appears?—Page 121. It forms part of the items in that page. "By Surveys, Plans, &c., of Crown Property: Professional charges and expenses of surveys, plans, &c., in relation to the management of Crown Property."

1410. Then Mr. Cates has no part of either the salaries and percentage of receivers and stewards, or of their incidental expenses?—No.

1411. His charges are entirely under "Surveys and Plans of Crown Property"?—They are.

1412. That amounts altogether to 2,972 *l.*?—Yes.

1413. That is for the year ending the 31st March 1888?—I can give you Mr. Cates' proportion of that 2,972 *l.*

1414. Please do so?—The gross amount is 2,058 *l.* 6 *s.* 9 *d.*, of which 683 *l.* 14 *s.* 1 *d.* was recovered by the office.

1415. That is the gross expenditure, 2,972 *l.*; you received 600 *l.* towards that?—No, the gross expenditure for Mr. Cates was 2,058 *l.* 6 *s.* 9 *d.*, part of that 2,972 *l.* 11 *s.* 4 *d.*; and of that sum that Mr. Cates received, 683 *l.* 14 *s.* 1 *d.* was recovered by the office.

1416. He received 2,000 *l.* a year, but only cost the office 1,300 *l.*?—That is so, for that year.

1417. I see this is a very variable amount; it is hardly an average year; for the year that I am now quoting it was 2,972 *l.*; the year before it was 3,645 *l.*; the year before it was 3,731 *l.*?—I can give you what Mr. Cates received out of those sums.

1418. Please do so for the few years, commencing, we will say, with 1880?—Mr. Cates received

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

received 2,504 l. 13 s. 10 d., out of which 1,031 l. 5 s. 5 d. was recovered.

1419. Just explain what you mean by "recovered." I do not think the Committee perhaps understand what "recovered" means?—Recovered from lessees who were charged the expense of the surveys; that is to say what Mr. Cates does for drawings and surveys.

1420. That is, you charge the lessees a certain sum in respect of surveyor's plans and surveyor's surveys; that sum goes to the credit of that account, and therefore the net cost to the office is only so much?—Only so much.

1421. What I want to ascertain first is the gross cost of Mr. Cates?—I have given you that.

1422. Keep that by itself separately. We can take the set-off afterwards. What was it in 1882?—£. 2,278.

1423. In 1883?—£. 4,115.

1424. In 1884?—£. 5,440.

1425. In 1885?—£. 5,308.

1426. In 1886?—£. 2,676.

1427. In 1887?—£. 2,612.

1428. In 1888?—£. 2,058.

1429. Is Mr. Cates allowed to carry on his private practice?—Yes.

1430. You do not have the whole of his services?—Not the whole of his services.

1431. There have been years in which you have paid him upwards of 5,000 l., and he has been at liberty to practise elsewhere?—Yes.

1432. Now will you give us the figures that you recovered?—In 1880, 1,031 l.; in 1881, 1,087 l.; in 1882, 715 l.; in 1883, 1,428 l.; in 1884, 2,833 l.; in 1885, 1,024 l.; in 1886, 711 l.; in 1887, 473 l.; and in 1888, 683 l.

1433. Are there any fees charged by Mr. Cates to lessees, or to any persons doing business under the Crown, which are not included in that?—There are charges received by Mr. Cates from third parties in accordance with the agreement between the Crown and such parties.

1434. Do you know how much they amount to?—I can give you for each year the amount.

1435. If you please?—In 1880, 39 l.; in 1881, 87 l.; in 1882, 157 l.; in 1883, 162 l.; in 1884, 368 l.; in 1885, 99 l.; in 1886, 316 l.; in 1887, 91 l.; and in 1888, 107 l.

Mr. Jackson.

1436. Are those calendar years or financial years?—Financial years.

1437. Ending 31st March 1888, is it?—Ending 31st March 1888.

Chairman.

1438. Do you employ any other surveyor or architect?—Not in London.

1439. The whole of the work is done by Mr. Cates?—The whole of the work is done by Mr. Cates.

1440. Now we will come to the mines; under whose management are they?—Perhaps you would allow me to make a short statement about that.

1441. If you please?—In the midland and southern districts the mines, other than those under-sea, consist wholly, I believe, of stone, limestone, sand or gravel, and Mr. Clutton, as

Chairman—continued.

receiver, usually advises as to the terms lettings, &c., but in the case of the Cro quarries in Portland, Sir John Coode has been several times consulted. Then the under-mines are entirely under the local management of Sir Warrington Smyth, who from time to time inspects and reports upon the workings in the and also the inland mines, which are let through him.

1442. How is Sir Warrington Smyth remunerated?—I must also say that he acts in connection with the mineral properties under Culley (a certain amount), and he is paid a salary of 800 l. per annum, and an allowance for travelling expenses at the rate of 6 d. per mile.

1443. Has he any per-centage?—No.

1444. Does Mr. Gore collect on any of the property?—Yes, he collects for the northern part of England.

1445. And upon those rents he receives a per-centage of 4 per cent?—No, 2½ per cent.

1446. Are you quite sure about that, that whether it is 2½ or 4 per cent. It is only where they are arranged by Sir Warrington Smyth, is it not?—Yes; he receives 4 per cent where he arranges the mines, and 2½ when he collects them under Sir Warrington Smyth.

1447. Then I suppose in those cases where accounts are collected under Sir Warrington Smyth, they are sent to him, he examines them and certifies them?—That is so.

1448. Have you any other mineral agent?—Yes; in the Chopwell Woods, in Northumberland, there is a local agent. I think he gets 10 guineas a year; I am not quite sure.

1449. Are there any amounts paid in addition to the sums we have already had, for local agents, bailiffs, and clerks of the works?—Yes, on occasions there are. I think I can give them to you.

1450. Will you give us the annual payment for that. Let us take Mr. Gore's receiver first. In 1885-86 how much was paid in Gore's case?—£. 262 7 s. 8 d.

1451. Let us leave out the shillings and pence. 262 l.; in 1886, what was it?—£. 261.

1452. Then in 1887?—£. 192.

1453. In 1888?—£. 194.

1454. In Mr. Clutton's receivership in 1886, what was the amount?—£1,130.

1455. In 1886?—£. 1,157.

1456. In 1887?—In 1887, 954 l.

1457. In 1888?—In 1888, 772 l.

1458. Then in estimating really the amount paid to Mr. Clutton we must add this: say for the year, 1888, we take his remuneration and expenses of his office as 5,200 l., out of which you understood you that he was to provide all subordinate servants; he gets also nearly 1 l. a year additional allowed for that purpose. No, I think this sum is included.

1459. I want to know whether that is so. Is that in reference to the Question 1097 of last day's evidence?

1460. We have got it here, there was paid to Mr. Clutton, as receiver (we will take the year, which is moderate), 3,241 l. There was paid to him as surveyor 1,916 l.; there was paid to him as fees, 43 l., making a total of 5,200 l.

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Colonel KINGSCOTE, C.B.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

then I understand you to say: well, that not all go into Mr. Clutton's pocket because to pay out of that the salaries of certain agents and other persons whom he has employed. Now, you tell us that in the same year there was paid out by you 772 l. for local agents and bailiffs, and clerks of works?—Yes. I meant to convey by my reply was, that not all the clerical staff. This sum, taking of 772 l., is an addition for other clerks; I not clerical clerks. For instance, for the clerks of the works, and for anything else that he has been allowed by him to be employed.

1471. What I understand is this; out of the 772 l. he really provides his own clerical staff; clerks and ordinary assistants?—Everything.
 1472. No?—Except those I have mentioned.
 1473. In addition to that he is furnished by you with local agents and bailiffs, and clerks of works?—Yes.
 1474. Then he has not to pay the local agents, clerks, and clerks of works out of his own pocket?—No; I can give you a list of payments if you like.
 1475. I think the Committee would like to have that list. This is a very important point?—I have it here.

Mr. Jackson.

1476. Are these amounts paid to or through Mr. Clutton, or paid by you, as charges which are to be charged to make out the total cost of management and cost of collection of the property under Mr. Clutton's charge?—That is so. Mr. Clutton pays them but they are accounted for. I can give you the list.
 1477. But does he pay them?—He pays them out of the Crown money.
 1478. He does?—Yes; not out of his own.
 1479. So that the money is paid to them through him?—It is paid to them through him, I can give the list if it is wished. The list is: in the Manor, the steward 10 l.; Portland Court, deputy steward and receiver, 16 l. 16 s.; Portland Court Manor, bailiff, 20 l.; Richmond, Eggham, 10 l.; Salcey and Hazleboro', 10 l.; the woodman there receives 72 l.; on the other hand the bailiffs receive 353 l.; Burwell Manor, 5 l.; Eggham allotments bailiff, 10 l.; for looking after the allotments, 10 l.; for Cannings, 10 l.; Bromham, 15 l.; woodman at Poynings, 10 l.; Stagsden, 40 l.; Eltham, Esher, 65 l.; then for clerks of works employed temporarily during that year 62 l.; the cost at Portland for looking after the stone, that makes a total of 772 l. 9 s. 4 d.

Chairman.

1480. What I want to get at is this; that in addition to the sums put down the last four years received by Mr. Clutton of 7,533 l., 5,923 l., and 5,200 l., there must be added, in order to find out the entire cost of his department an average of 1,000 l. a year?—Yes; 1,156 l.

1481. I have just averaged them?—Yes; no more it is so.

1483.

Mr. Jackson.

1472. As I understand, the Chairman wants to ascertain what is the total cost of collection and management of the property under Mr. Clutton's charge?—Yes; so I understand.

1473. Does this include the whole of it?—Everything.

Chairman.

1474. There are no other allowances, you say?—No other.

1475. All the expenses which Mr. Higgins is put to in the discharge of his duties are paid by the Department in your office?—Yes.

1476. I do not remember if I asked you whether Mr. Clutton or Mr. Gore receive fees from anybody else in respect of the property?—Yes; they do receive—the same as I explained that Mr. Cates did, from third parties, small sums.

1477. But they may be large sums?—Well, I can give them.

1478. How are they rendered to you if you do not receive them back again; how do they come under your cognizance at all?—They come from the Department.

1479. No, no; supposing I say, for instance, a corporation or a railway company or a dock company want to buy a certain portion of Crown land; when the negotiation is complete, there will be certain charges made by your representatives?—Yes.

1480. And your surveyor will charge the railway company so much for what he has done; is all that accounted for to you?—Yes; and it is always done by agreement.

1481. I want to be quite clear about this: Your surveyors are absolutely prohibited from receiving any fees in respect of any part of the Crown property without accounting for them to you?—That is so. I can give you the amount of them if you desire.

1482. I only want to see if that is the fact; of course, I know that that is a Treasury principle in reference to legal and other matters, and I want to know whether you apply that principle in your Department?—Yes.

1483. That is, that they are not to receive fees from third parties, and if they do those fees are to be paid to you, or to the credit of your Department?—They are not paid to me. They are accounted to me, but they are not paid into the office.

1484. You and I are at cross purposes?—They are fixed by agreement, and I know what they are.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1485. They are received by Mr. Cates?—They are received by Mr. Clutton.

1486. They are received by Mr. Clutton, or whoever it is?—Or whoever it is.

Sir William Harcourt.

1487. Are they paid under your special authority?—Yes; I am cognisant of it.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1488. Each payment is vouched to you and accounted for?—And accounted for.

H 3

1489. I do

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Colonel KINGSCOTE, C.B.

[Conti

Chairman.

1489. I do not see the object of their accounting to you unless you are to have the advantage of it; are you quite sure that you have got it quite correct?—I believe I have.

1490. I want to be quite clear about this; I can understand their accounting to you and giving you the information if they are going to account for them to you; but supposing they receive 300 *l.* or 400 *l.* from somebody else which they are entitled to have according to your agreement with them, why should they tell you they are receiving 300 *l.* or 400 *l.* from somebody else?—Because it is in the agreement before the work is begun.

Sir William Harcourt.

1491. The specific sum?—Yes, on the scale, or whatever it is.

Chairman.

1492. What "agreement" is it you refer to?—Suppose it is a building agreement.

1493. You mean to say that supposing a building lease has been granted in London, there is a certain sum specified to be charged?—They are chiefly, I believe, fees for approving plans. That is what I believe they are chiefly, and I know what the scale is, and what the amount will be.

1494. I want to put this case to you: Supposing that you have not an ordinary letting, but that you have a considerable sale of property, and that there are fees upon that sale payable by third persons, I understand that those fees go into the pockets of your surveyor?—I know of no case of that sort.

Sir William Harcourt.

1495. Do you sell property?—Sometimes. Oh yes.

Chairman.

1496. Will you now give us the information with reference to the payment to the banking account of the Receivers of the amounts collected by them?—I wish to explain, in addition to what I said before, that at the end of each month I receive from the book-keeper in my department a statement of all remittances to that department made by each Receiver during the preceding month, and during the corresponding month in the previous year. Of course, it is known in the department whether there is any and what substantial alteration in the rents to be collected, and I can therefore judge whether the remittances should be about the same, or greater, or less, than those on the corresponding month of the previous year. If I noticed any substantial diminution in the remittances I should require an explanation. Then the accounts signed by each Receiver are sent in monthly, and are examined by the staff in my department. The examiners have instructions to call attention to any falling-off in the remittances which may not be explained by increased payments, and they see that all payments have been duly authorised. Then, at the end of each year, each Receiver sends me an annual cash account, which is a summary of the monthly ones, and the detailed rental showing all tenancies, the arrears due at the beginning of the year,

Chairman—continued.

the rent becoming due in the year, the amount received during the year, and the remittance remaining due at the end of the year from the tenant. Both the annual cash account and the rental are declared to by the Receiver. Both are examined by my separate staff, the one being checked with the previous year's account and the lettings effected, &c., during the year. As the accounts and the rentals are exact, and they are sent to the book-keeper, who, regarding these accounts, simply records the actions shown there under the proper heads of the accounts. I have here a specimen of a monthly account rendered, and I can produce a copy of the account for the month of January 1888, in which it will be seen that at that month Mr. Clutton made no less than 10 remittances of money to my department. The balance in his hand at the end of the month was 251 *l.* 13 *s.* 8 *d.*; and I can produce a statement showing the remittance made by Mr. Clutton for each month in the years 1886 and 1887-88, and the balance in his hands at the close of each month. That I hold in my hands. In 1886-87 he remitted monies on 43 occasions, and in 1887-88 on 62 occasions. I have got the Receiver's banking-book here for the year 1887-88.

1497. I should like to see that statement (the same is handed in); this account shows the remittances by Mr. Clutton to you, but it does not show the receipts by Mr. Clutton from the tenants in each month?—I receive them from the tenants; at least from time to time.

1498. He gives you the rental of the year, he supposes, and says, "I have received that amount," and what we want to know is, where you check the date of the receipt and the date of the remittance. We understood last time that in consequence of the recommendation of the Committee of Public Accounts, under the Audit of the Comptroller General, the Receivers are not allowed to pay these rents into their own private accounts at their bankers, and to mix them with their own funds, but that they do keep separate bank accounts for the Crown rents. I want to know who checks that banking account with the remittances to you?—From time to time my chief clerk does that. Of course it is difficult to make them tally except at the end of the year, because it is as difficult for Mr. Clutton, or either Receiver, to make up his balance at the end of the year as it is impossible to do it at the end of the month, because payments come in at the end of the month, and then there is his per-centage to be paid for whatever may come in, so that except on occasions, twice a year, or yearly, you check the banking book against the account.

Sir William Harcourt.

1499. I do not quite understand what the form of payment. Supposing a man has a year rent, does he draw a cheque from Mr. Clutton, or to whom is the cheque made payable?—To Mr. Clutton.

1500. To Mr. Clutton?—To the Receiver.

1501. And Mr. Clutton pays that cheque into his own bank?—Into his separate banking account at a bank.

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[Continued.]

Mr. Jackson.

1502. Not into his own banking account but to the Crown banking account, a difference which is important?—Into the Crown banking account which he keeps, and which I explained to the Committee last time.

1503. Does the annual account which is furnished to you by Mr. Clutton of his total receipts and payments, show the dates of the receipts, and the dates of the payments in each month?—No; it does not. We know the dates of the payments from the monthly accounts.

1504. How can you know unless it is furnished?—From the monthly accounts. The annual account is a summary of the monthly accounts.

1505. If I may venture to say so, we have not at this point clear as to whether the monthly account which is furnished to you gives the date of the receipt of each separate item to Mr. Clutton?—No, it does not.

1506. Then does the annual account which is furnished to you give the date of the receipt of each item by Mr. Clutton?—No, it does not.

1507. Then how do you know the date of the receipt of any particular item by Mr. Clutton?—I can only tell in the month.

1508. But how can you tell "in the month?" I cannot tell the actual date.

1509. Suppose he receives the rent of a particular farm on the 1st July, do you know that it has been received on the 1st July?—I cannot tell you whether it is the 1st or the 2nd of July.

1510. Can you tell whether it is the 1st or the 2nd of July?—I cannot, except by examining the book.

Sir William Harcourt.

1511. The receipt given by Mr. Clutton to the person who pays would show the date of the payment, and those receipts, I suppose, are audited and vouchers when the audit takes place?—No, I think not. It would be almost impossible to carry it out in that way, or in such detail as that. Take, for instance, 2 l. 10 s. cottages, and sums of that, we should have many hundreds and thousands of items.

Mr. Jackson.

1512. Mr. Clutton must have the date of the receipt of each item, must he not?—Yes, he has the date.

1513. But the account is not furnished to you, is it?—Understand?—No.

Sir Henry Fletcher.

1514. Are the farm rents, that is to say, the agricultural rents, paid yearly or half-yearly?—Half-yearly.

1515. At Lady-day and at Michaelmas?—No; at three and three months after, or more; four months, I think, sometimes go in the different months before payment is made. It varies, but as a matter of fact I do not think that any are collected within two months of when they become due; I should think three months would be nearer the mark.

1516. Are the Crown farms let from Michaelmas, or from some other period of the year?—They vary in different parts.

15103.

Sir Henry Fletcher—continued.

1517. How soon after receiving the rents are they paid into the Crown account by Mr. Clutton or Mr. Gore?—The Receiver pays them in monthly.

Chairman.

1518. Not into the Crown account?—He pays in not only monthly but several times a month. I have just handed in a list.

1519. I have no doubt it is as you say, that they pay them in regularly, but what check have you to test the date of the receipt on the one hand by the Receiver from the tenant, and the payment on the other hand by the Receiver into that account. It may have kept that in his own hands a month or six weeks or two months, and you have no machinery by which to check it, have you?—The machinery is that we judge by the corresponding month.

1520. That is an opinion; but you have no absolute check. You do not see that A. B. paid to Mr. Clutton on the 15th July 500 l., and that on the 16th July Mr. Clutton paid that 500 l. into the bank?—No; sums come in in round numbers.

1521. He pays round figures in when it suits him; but in the case of Mr. Higgins where there is 264,000 l. received annually, that money goes direct to the bank to the Receiver General's account?—Yes.

1522. There is no stoppage at all?—No.

1523. Having regard to the fact that all Mr. Clutton's money (and I suppose Mr. Gore's), is paid into a London bank; is there any difficulty why he should not, instead of paying it into a London bank, pay it to the Receiver General?—It would only complicate the accounts; we should have no better check then.

1524. How would it complicate the account?—We must give Mr. Clutton (not Mr. Clutton only, but the Receiver who has payments to make) money, and we should have to be remitting him money instead of his accounting for it as he does at present.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

1525. Is there any limit to the balance left in Mr. Clutton's hands from time to time?—The agreement is that it shall not be more than 500 l., but it is never so large as that; at least according to the Return. Just occasionally it may be for a few days.

Mr. Jackson.

1526. How are these payments made from the one account to the other. Are they made by cheque to Mr. Higgins, or are they made by transfers from Mr. Clutton's account to the account of the Receiver General in the Bank of England?—That is how they are paid in.

1527. Therefore, neither cheque nor money comes into the hands of the Receiver General?—As a rule that is so.

1528. I suppose there is a general rule with regard to the amounts which are transferred by Mr. Clutton from his Crown account to the account of the Receiver General?—Of the Receiver General.

1529. Are those payments made by transfer by the bank direct to the account of the Receiver General,

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[Continued]

Mr. Jackson—continued.

General, or are they remitted to the Receiver General by cheque?—They are transferred, I think you call it, by cheque. I will show you how it is done.

1530. I think you will be able probably to explain this: On a particular day there is charged to the debit of this account 1,000 £, which is paid to the Commissioners of Woods?—Yes.

1531. Is that 1,000 £ transmitted to the Commissioners of Woods by cheque drawn by Mr. Clutton, or is it transferred from this banking account to the banking account of the Receiver General?—I think you had better ask Mr. Clutton that, because I think he sometimes pays one way, and sometimes another. Mr. Gore, I think, always pays direct by his own cheque.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1532. Do you mean by his own cheque upon this account?—His own cheque upon this account.

1533. Made payable to the order of the Receiver General?—I believe so.

Chairman.

1534. I understood you to say that all payments practically of any considerable amount required, first, your sanction, and secondly, Treasury sanction?—Yes, that is so.

1535. Then how does Mr. Clutton make these large payments you say of 400 £ or 500 £ without obtaining any sanction?—He does not spend a farthing without sanction, even for the small rates.

1536. Then if it requires to come to you, and requires to go to the Treasury, what difficulty would there be in the Commissioners drawing a cheque on their own account for these payments?—The difficulty would be, that it would cause very much increased labour, and many require things to be done on the spot.

1537. It cannot be, as I understand, done on the spot, because he has to wait to get your sanction?—Take for instance the item of woodmen; the first one I come to. The woodmen down at Salcey, one at 14 s. a week, another one at 1 £ a week; that has my sanction.

1538. I am not talking about those small things, I am talking about these larger payments; these all come into Mr. Clutton's account. I will take the larger ones, but they all come into Mr. Clutton's account?—"Buildings (Bromham) William Powney, further on account for alterations and additions." Then in his monthly account, Mr. Clutton gets the letter from the "Office of Woods, 14th July 1887, file" so and so, which is the authority for applying 100 £ on account, so that in this monthly account of Mr. Clutton, if you would look at it you would see how it is checked, "Receiver's authority and date thereof," "Treasury authority, and date thereof," "Number of Voucher," "Separate Sums," "Total Sums." To my idea it is a very complete check. I do not see how it is to be made more minute. It is all classified, "Lands in hand," "Woods," "Rates," "Wages;" I should like to put that document in just to show these particulars.

1539. If you wish to put it in you may put it

Chairman—continued.

in?—Then, I will do so. (*Statement was handed in, vide Appendix*).

1540. In dealing with the Land Revenue on your charge, have you in continuance the policy adopted many years prior to your appointment, sold detached plots of land which had accommodation value?—The sales have been few since I have been Commissioner, simply because, as every honourable Member must know, the sale of land is a very poor business now in dealing with it I may say that the policy has been adopted, with advantage, which was the custom for many years prior to my appointment, that detached plots of land, or plots not possessed to others, an accommodation have been sold and enfranchised.

1541. Copyholds you mean?—Copyholds have been enfranchised, and the proceeds and capital moneys available have been applied to the purchase of other properties, with a view to the consolidation of the Crown estates, or as investments, and in the redemption of charges on Crown property, and temporarily in executing works of improvement upon the agricultural properties already belonging to the Crown.

1542. During the four years that you have been a Commissioner, I see that you have purchased property, the purchase-money of which amounts to 88,755 £?—That is so.

1543. And you have enfranchised copyholds, the consideration being 10,220 £?—Yes.

1544. But, I suppose, a large proportion of this property that has been sold really represents that property in Spring Gardens which was bought for the Admiralty purposes?—Yes, public offices, under the Public Offices Site Act of 1882, I think.

1545. What was the whole of the value of the property that was sold for public offices?—The amount of the compensation to be made for the land revenues was determined, I think, by Henry Hunt, and the compensation for the properties then producing rent was fixed at 324,878 £; and for the properties which would then produce rent at 80,000 £.

1546. How is that purchase-money paid?—The two sums are payable with interest by annual instalments, the payments on account of the former commencing on the 30th June 1885 and on account of the latter on the 30th October 1885 or 31st December next, after the income from the land revenue shall cease to be carried to the Consolidated Fund.

1547. Have you, during your period of office, purchased any estates?—Yes.

1548. Of what value?—In 1885-86, 61 £; in 1886-87, 171,755 £; in 1887-88, 41,360 £; in 1888-89, 81,910 £; that is a total of 356,000 £ and then redemption of charges in the years 1885-86, 4,807 £; in 1886-87, 890 £; in 1887-88, nothing; and in 1888-89, 412 £ 12 s. 9 d.

1549. What is the nature of the properties you have purchased principally?—Of the sum laid out in the purchase of estates in London, of 337,101 £, was invested in the purchase of ground-rents in London, at an average of about 26½ years' purchase, giving a return slightly less than 4 per cent. on the purchase moneys.

1550. Have you any money borrowed on capital account?—No.

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

151. I thought there was a sum borrowed on account of woods and forests, which, was paid off in annual instalments?—No; I think you are speaking of the permanent improvements advances.

152. You owe nothing to the Public Works Commissioners?—No.

153. And you have carried no expenditure on capital account which you are liquidating in annual payments?—Yes; that is a different matter.

154. The money has been found; have you an improvement account?—Yes, under the Act of 1866; and I can give you an explanatory statement as to that.

155. Which page is it in your accounts?—Page 113, or perhaps 112, it begins.

156. There are advances for permanent improvements?—Yes.

157. What is the aggregate amount advanced to you for permanent improvements; that is what I really want to get at; last year it appears to have been 13,000 *l.*; but I want to know what the present amount?—From the beginning, 1866 to the 31st of March this year, a sum of 7,968 *l.* has been paid; of which there was paid to the same date 143,717 *l.*; leaving to be repaid out of future income 224,250 *l.*

158. You do not mean that that is money advanced to tenants; you mean that money is advanced for the purposes of those improvements voted by you?—Yes.

159. And then every year out of the rental you transfer so much to the credit of that account in liquidation of that outlay?—In liquidation of it; if you look at page 127, you will see that it is accounted for there; the repayment for the year 1888 is 13,893 *l.* you will see at the bottom of the page.

160. "By repayment to capital in respect of permanent improvements under the Crown Lands Act of 1866," 13,893 *l.*?—Yes.

161. That would be the instalment of last year?—Yes.

162. Are you satisfied that the account is in satisfactory state, that is to say that the sums appropriated were liquidated in due course?—

It will take so many years. In 25 years, I calculate, it will repay itself.

Mr. Jackson.

163. That is to say, that if you spend 1,000 *l.* on what you deem to be a permanent improvement of property it is repaid by instalments of twenty-fifth for each of the 25 years following?—That is so.

164. Spread over 25 years?—Spread over 25 years.

Chairman.

165. The sum now outstanding, I think you mean, is, 224,250 *l.*?—Yes.

166. I suppose, if you had not had an arrangement of that sort, it would have been impossible for you to carry out the necessary improvements, without a very large diminution of each year's income?—It would have diminished the annual income considerably.

167. I think we heard the other day that you have only 1,100 acres in hand now?—Yes.

168. What is the state of the arrears; what is the figure for 1888?

Chairman—continued.

is your amount of arrears now?—You will find it at page 120 of the accounts to the 31st March 1888 (that includes Mr. Culley's department as well as my own), 25,810 *l.* 2 *s.* 8 *d.*

1569. Two or three years ago a considerable amount was written off, was it not, for arrears?—Yes.

1570. There was 90,000 *l.*, which Sir Michael Hicks Beach asked you about; you said you would bring an explanation of that?—You asked me about that last time, as to the large sum discharged as irrecoverable in 1888–89, I think. I find these discharges are almost entirely Irish or Welsh arrears, which have been on the rental for some time, and were considered by the Commissioner then in office to be irrecoverable.

Sir William Harcourt.

1571. In what year was the Commission of Woods as a separate body first instituted?—In 1851. It was then divided from the Office of Works.

1572. The policy of the separation of the two bodies was to place what may be called the spending department of the Crown estates under one management; that is to say, the Commission of Works; and the profit-making portion of the Crown estates under the Commission of Woods and Forests, was it not?—That was the intention.

1573. And it was expected that that would produce a more economical management than the profit-yielding portion of the Crown estates?—I believe so.

1574. Will you take in your hand these returns, these tables which were originally put in. They give the accounts from the year 1850 to the year 1888. That result seems to have been attained. If you take page 3 of that account, I see that in the last column the total is 392,000 *l.*, of which 200,000 *l.* was paid in to the Consolidated Fund, the residue being the outgoings of all descriptions; that would be so, would it not?—Yes.

1575. That would show that out of the receipts the outgoings amounted to 50 per cent. nearly of the total; and the payment for the Consolidated Fund would be the other half of the total, would it not, in round numbers?—Yes, I think so.

1576. Now take the year 1888; you there find the total 484,000 *l.*, of which 390,000 *l.* is paid into the Consolidated Fund, leaving the whole of the outgoings about 100,000 *l.*?—Yes.

1577. So that in the last year the outgoings instead of being one-half of the total, were one-fifth about?—Yes; but I think I ought to observe that I believe the year 1850 included the office expenses, which 1888 does not. That is to say, they are now voted.

1579. They are now voted on the Consolidated Fund?—Yes.

1578. Are they on the Consolidated Fund, or on the Vote?—They are on the Vote. They are voted. It is merely the salaries.

1580. What do they amount to?—£. 23,761 in 1888.

1581. Then you ought to add that to the outgoings?—No; add it to 1888. I have given you the figure for 1888.

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1582. Yes, Google

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[Continued]

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

1582. Yes, so I understand. I want to compare the income and the outgoings at the beginning of the system, and at the end; and, as I understand, at the beginning, taking it in round numbers, the income was 400,000 *l.* (I will say that, instead of 392,000 *l.*), and the payment to the Consolidated Fund was 200,000 *l.*; and the outgoing was the difference?—I think it would be better if you would not mind taking another year.

1583. In the year before the Commission began it would be correct, would it not, to say that out of a total income of 400,000 *l.* there were 200,000 *l.* paid into the Consolidated Fund, and 200,000 *l.* paid away in outgoings of different descriptions?—Yes, that is so.

1584. That 'is' an accurate description?—Yes.

1585. Now, taking the last year, it would be correct to say that out of the total income, in round numbers again, of 500,000 *l.*, in round numbers, 400,000 *l.* was paid into the Consolidated Fund?—That is so.

1586. That is to say that the outgoings are, in the last year, about (in round numbers), one-fifth of the total receipts?—Yes.

1587. I also observe that though the receipts are very much larger in 1888 than they were in 1850, the outgoings of all kinds would be only 100,000 *l.*, as compared with 200,000 *l.* in 1850?—Yes.

1588. So that though the income is greatly increased the outgoings of all sorts will have been diminished, will they not, by one-half?—Yes.

1589. I will come to the details of what these things consist in; I want some information on that, so that the outgoings of all descriptions in the year 1888 would, in round numbers, be about one-fifth, or 20 per cent. of the total income, would it not?—Yes; that is a rough calculation of it.

1590. Whereas in the year 1850 they were 50 per cent.?—Yes.

1591. I know you have a great deal of experience in the management of estates; what should you say would be an ordinary deduction for outgoings upon a considerable estate; I am speaking of estates of 30,000 *l.* or 40,000 *l.* a year; would 30 per cent. be an average of the outgoings, do you think; I mean of the gross receipts of an estate (I am speaking of large estates), and including in that, management, repairs, subscriptions, local taxes, public charges, and improvements; I do not know whether it is a question you are disposed to answer; if not, I will strike it out?—I should say from 25 to 30 per cent. on every good estate. It must be a good estate, that is, not more than that.

Chairman.

1592. Does that include improvements or exclude improvements; is it inclusive or exclusive of improvements?—Inclusive of improvements.

Sir William Harcourt.

1593. You mean improvements like drainage, and so forth?—I happen to have been upon the Commission of Agriculture in 1882. There the subject was gone into rather deeply, and pretty

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

well threshed out. I have before me Little's Report, and what was said of the Duke of Bedford's landed estate, and Mr. Druce's Report for Devonshire, and different Sub-Commission Reports, which go very fully into it. I agree very much with what was said by them at that time, and I think, giving it roughly, but quite fairly, that what you have put before me (25 to 30 per cent.) is what they base their view upon, and it certainly has not decreased since then.

1594. You would say 25 to 30 per cent. would be an ordinary average deduction from the gross receipt?—I think so, certainly. Before you get away from that I should like to call your attention to the year 1850. You see "Properties under Special Management" there, in 1850; also see what they are in 1888.

1595. Yes; I was going to take you through those columns; I want some information as to those variations?—I was going to point out the variation between the 58,325 *l.* of 1850, the 394 *l.* of 1888, is accounted for by properties which are gone. We have no longer the management of them.

1596. If you take the first column, the receipt from "Rents, Profits of Manors, &c.," I have increased from 281,000 *l.* to 409,000 *l.*—Yes.

1597. I suppose that is mainly upon built property?—That is mainly from property in the London district, and, of course, owing to purchases made in the interval between the 1850 and 1888. The increase is attributable to that; it is to say, to the purchases made from that time.

1598. You mean of land?—Of land or ground, rents, or whatever it is.

1599. I do not know that the ground would come under that, would they?—Yes, the whole comes under that.

1600. Not under the "Interest of Monuments"?—No.

1601. That would be true, I suppose, in the next column, "Fines on the renewal of Leases"?—Yes.

1602. That would be mainly the built property, I suppose?—That would, entirely.

1603. Now "The Mines Account;" I see it has grown from 9,000 *l.* or 10,000 *l.* to 21,000 *l.* is that due to the opening of new mines?—They have hardly gone back to 1850, but, of course, must be that; and that is only the half in 1888, because only the half is paid in. Half of what is received from mines is paid into the Consolidated Fund account since 1866.

1604. Half is paid into the capital account to replace the exhaustion of the property?—I should have a statement of it here.

1605. I only wanted to see what were the items upon which the increase of property had been taken place; now, "Sales of Produce;" is the produce sold?—Timber would be the chief.

1606. Is that so; because I see the first column is "Royal Forests and Woodlands;" must include the timber?—No. 4 column, "Sales of Produce," I think, is chiefly timber and agricultural lands, not included in the forest.

1607. I wanted to call your attention

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Sir William Harcourt—continued.

that from the year 1854 to the year 1859 (it is five years) there were very large receipts, out of proportion to the ordinary receipts, which are under 4,000 *l.* or 5,000 *l.*; can you tell what was the cause of those very large receipts in those years?—The only way in which I can account for that is this: it was just at the time that there were two large forests distressed, Hainault and Whichwood; and, of course, the produce of that would be spread over several years. I cannot account for it except in that way.

1608. Would not that be under the Forests' account?—No.

1609. You will see that the Forest Account is very much larger during those years?—

1610. I understand it, if it includes the great receipts of timber in the Forest of Dean, the New Forest, Whichwood, and so forth?—In the fourth column I am sure that the Forest of Dean and the New Forest would not be included; it would be outside those two.

1611. They would be under "Royal Forests and Woodlands," in the last column?—Yes.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1612. Are you quite sure that that is so; you say that there is a sudden rise in both these columns?—They are all given in the Parliamentary Accounts. If you could get those, they would explain it at once, but I have not got them before me. If you like, we could send for the reports of 1855-56, and see directly.

Sir William Harcourt.

1613. "Interest of moneys;" is that interest upon uninvested money?—Interest upon invested money.

1614. You mean money invested in Consols?—Yes.

1615. "Properties under Special Management;" were we saying just now that some of that disappeared; what was that sort of property?—I mean in 1850, when it was 10,000 *l.*

1616. Yes?—In 1850, 1851, 1852, and those years. I think those were properties which were then handed over to the Office of Works. You look at our Report for 1888, page 128, and you will see the rental for the year for the Rolls' Estate (which is one of those properties included in that column), 1,244 *l.* 5 *s.*; there is on the other side, Kensington Palace Gardens Estate, 1 *l.* 3 *s.* 10 *d.*

1617. I only want it generally; those are properties transferred to the Department of Works, which no longer yield revenue to your department?—That is so.

1618. Then, as regards the forests, I observe that the receipts in former years were much higher; that was at a time when you were cutting down the ripe timber?—There is very strong evidence of it. Not having been a Commissioner then, I cannot say.

1619. No; Mr. Culley has told us about that?—Yes.

1620. Now, if you will turn to the first column on the other page, which contains the payments, you will see that the "Salaries, &c., of Receivers" and "Incidental expenses of Receivers, &c.,"

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Sir William Harcourt—continued.

are very much the same as they were in 1850 but for a much larger income?—That is so.

1621. As to "Mines," I see that the expenditure ceased altogether; how is that?—That is because there is a separate account kept of the mines.

1622. It must be charged somewhere in those payments; where is it charged; it must be charged against the receipts somewhere?—It is under the "Net receipts," page 157.

1623. I understand the expenses have been taken out in the account before the receipts are credited on the other side?—That is so.

1624. The "surveys," I do not think anything arises upon; then, as to the "repairs," and so forth, I see there was a very high figure for those from the year 1854 to the year 1866; then they go down very much, and then they rise again; do you know what the causes of the very high figures were in those years?—Down to 1866 the sums given were the total cost of the repairs. After that the new scheme came into effect, when part was taken from the capital account. When the Permanent Improvements Act was passed, the whole cost was then taken for certain buildings and other outlay.

1625. I do not quite understand that. Previous to the year 1866 the whole charge of the year appeared in the accounts of the year?—It did, in the annual account.

1626. After 1866 it was spread over the payments, so as to replace it in 25 years; is that so?—That is so.

1627. And that makes the apparent charge upon particular years less in 1886 than before?—That is so, for the income account.

1628. Is the Permanent Improvements Accounts (I mean the moneys due) increasing or diminishing?—It is rather decreasing.

1629. Who would determine what moneys should be spent out of that account; what should be regarded as a permanent improvement?—I consult the different receivers, and then refer to the Treasury.

1630. So that no expenditure is made upon that account, except with the sanction of the Treasury?—No. Perhaps I may say that at the close of each financial year a statement of all such outlay made during the year is prepared by the bookkeeper, and after being examined is apportioned by or in communication with the Crown receivers between works, the cost of which may properly be charged to capital, and those the cost of which should be charged to income. A statement is then submitted to the Treasury of the moneys proposed to be charged to capital, and their authority obtained for so doing.

1631. So that every charge upon this account goes not only through your office, but through the Treasury?—That is so.

1632. Now these fixed charges, "Donations to Schools, &c.," I see stood at the first period at upwards of 10,000 *l.*; now they stand at 2,000 *l.*; what is the meaning of the alteration in that item?—I think that after 1866 or 1867, what were then permanent charges were gradually wiped away, and transferred to the Consolidated Fund, and since then it is simply what has been given under the discretion of the Commissioners, but with the authority of the Treasury.

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[Continued]

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

1633. Going back to the payments to the Consolidated Fund, I see that they have pretty steadily increased from 200,000 *l.* to about 400,000 *l.* a year. I see that in one year (is that a misprint? no, it cannot be), the year 1854, there seems to have been a payment of 395,000 *l.* to the Consolidated Fund. Then on each side of that, payments of 272,000 *l.* and 252,000 *l.* What is the meaning of that large sum in that year. I cannot make it out from the accounts; it must be a mistake?—Do you mean in 1854?

1634. Yes?—The cause of that was re-payment of moneys advanced under the Metropolitan Improvement Act, 4 & 5 Vict. c. 45, and 7 Vict. c. 1.

1635. Where does it appear; it does not appear in the receipt accounts. If you look in the receipt account on the other side, you will find the total of 1854 is 383,000 *l.*?—£. 387,000, is it not.

1636. No; look at page 2; look at the other side, and you find the payment 327,000 *l.*?—It must be an accumulative balance. It was 135,888 *l.* Perhaps they were accumulating the balance to pay off that debt. I cannot tell you for certain, but that is the only thing that strikes me. There is the fact that this balance was paid off that year.

1637. What was the nature of that payment?—The note I have here is, "Repayment of moneys advanced under the Metropolitan Improvement Act, 4 & 5 Vict. c. 45."

1638. Advanced by whom and for what?—I suppose I ought to know, but I do not.

1639. You cannot be expected to know the details, but you will find that out for us?—Yes.

1640. Taking it altogether, I see that for the last few years your total outgoings of all descriptions are somewhat under 100,000 *l.* a-year. What you have got to do to arrive at that, is to deduct the payments to the Consolidated Fund from the total, and it amounts to rather under than over 100,000 *l.* a-year?—Yes.

1641. Upon an income of something under 500,000 *l.* a year?—Yes.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

1642. And add the vote?—Adding the vote makes it 507,000 *l.*

Sir William Harcourt.

1643. That would make the outgoings upon this estate something about, or a little above 20 per cent.?—Yes, that is so.

1644. You were speaking of the evidence that you remembered before the Commission on Agriculture, and the outgoings upon estates generally, and you mentioned the Duke of Bedford's estate; was evidence given about that, as to the outgoings, the cost of estates; you mentioned that just now?—Oh, yes.

1645. Do you remember what the evidence was as to the cost on the Duke of Bedford's estate?—There were "Fixed Charges, Management, Repairs, Works, including Churches and Schools;" that is how it was rendered.

1646. What percentage did he take?—For which item do you mean, for management.

1647. No, for the whole; I mean what was the whole deduction from the gross income, after all

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

outgoings upon that?—In 1880 it was 82 per cent., from one estate; that is taking charges as well.

1648. I will not follow that into further detail. You have already stated that, according to experience, you should say that 25 to 30 per cent. would be ordinary outgoings to be deducted from the gross income?—That is my opinion.

1649. There is one thing I wanted to ask with reference to Whichwood Forest; Whichwood Forest was a wild open forest originally, was it not?—Yes, in Oxfordshire.

1650. In what year was that disafforested? I forget. Soon after the Commission came into operation, was it not?—I think it was.

1651. And that forest was grubbed up and put out in large farms?—In large farms; in which I believe it was.

1652. And expensive buildings put upon it?—Fairly; adequate buildings. I do not think I would call them "expensive buildings," but they were necessary buildings for cultivating an arable farm.

1653. There is accommodation for cattle on the estate, are never fed there, is not there?—Oh, no. In fact, now that corn is not the only product (which that estate was intended for, you may say at the time when wheat and other cereals were at a higher price), the tenants are asking for more accommodation for cattle, in the hope of keeping cattle; that would be more remunerative to them.

1654. I understood you to say in your evidence that you did not think that has been a profitable conversion?—Not now.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

1655. Sir William Harcourt has put it that the expenses on this account come to 20 per cent.; but adding the 23,000 *l.* that he receives from the Consolidated Fund, I think it comes to about 24 per cent.; if I am correct, that perhaps it might be as well to get the figure?—I think that probably would be so.

1656. It was by taking the round figures of 400,000 *l.* on one side, and 500,000 *l.* on the other, that Sir William Harcourt arrived at those figures. That, of course, is an addition to the payment of 10,000 *l.*, and it is an addition to the total also of 20,000 *l.*, and it does not take into consideration the 23,000 *l.* on the Consolidated Fund?—Yes, I think that is so.

1657. I make it come to 24 per cent. Is it correct it is as well that we should have the right figure on the notes?—I take it from your statement that that is correct; you have worked out the figure.

1658. I would rather have it from the Duke of Bedford, might I ask from what source the money for permanent improvements?—It comes from the capital account, and is included in the total that you see on this table "Advances for Permanent Improvements." You see the cost for it, and it is rendered in the annual report.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

1659. There is another item that may possibly slightly affect the percentage of costs, and that is the mines; I ask you how that stands. It derives about 20,000 *l.* a year from mines.

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Colonel KINGSCOTE, C.B.

[Continued.]

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

more, I think, in that account?—It is than that; it is 40,000 *l.* a year.

60. The third column of the tables we have dealing with only gives 20,000 *l.*; when take credit on the income side for about 20 *l.* a year in consequence of that being a sum, and all charges having been previously deducted, you enter nothing upon the payment at all; that does not give quite a correct session of the cost of collection you see?—If did that we should have to bring in the gross amount, which in that year, 1888, was 46,083 *l.*

61. If we did that we should have to bring the gross amount, which in that year, 1888, 46,083 *l.*?—But when you enter there 20 *l.* or 21,000 *l.* on the revenue side of the A., and nothing on the payment side, you to make a slight correction for that in order to give at the correct percentage of cost, do you—Yes.

62. There is another question I would like to put to you. Sir William Harcourt directed your attention to the year 1854 (which also struck me) the year 1850. I do not know whether you can explain it; it is the first year, and I observe the total receipts in 1850 are 349,000 *l.*?—I see it on the statement.

63. And the total payments are 392,000 *l.*, 40,000 *l.* was paid to the Consolidated Fund; accordingly the total payments exceed (roughly) by 50,000 *l.* the total receipts; can you explain why that is?—No, indeed I cannot.

64. One reason why I ask you about that is, the result of that is that the percentage at me is even larger than was brought out, I saw in Sir William Harcourt's examination, that you have got to compare the costs, not the total payments, but with the total receipts, and accordingly you only received 20 *l.*, or say, roughly, 350,000 *l.*, and paid in 400 *l.*?—That is so; but I have no means of giving you any further knowledge than that is shown by these figures which have been brought out.

65. So that at that time the costs and payments were considerably more than 50 per cent.—Yes; that would be so under those circumstances.

Sir Henry Fletcher.

66. Referring to the last day's proceedings with regard to Windsor Forest, I see you say with regard to the food for game, that there is a fixed sum of 500 *l.* a year?—Yes.

67. Might I ask you if it has ever been stated that the keepers should be paid so much per hundred, or so much per thousand for feeding the game, instead of the food supplied?—No; I have nothing to do with that; that is under the Ranger and Deputy Ranger.

Mr. Hobhouse.

68. I understand from this account that you have been questioned about, that out of the total receipts for the year 1888, about four-fifths appear in the first column, "Rents and Profits of Woods," something over 400,000 *l.* a year?—

69. Can you distinguish between the payments which come under that first column, and the payments which come under the second column?

Mr. Hobhouse—continued.

rents arising from agricultural estates from ground rents; can you tell me what proportion is to be attributed to each of those as profits; I see at page 10 the London property has produced 237,000 *l.*?—Pages 6 and 7 give it more completely, "Rents of Agricultural Land," "Rents and Royalties of Mines."

Sir William Harcourt.

1670. You do not distinguish between ground rents and houses, do you?—Page 6 gives "Ground Rents and Houses," "Dividends and Interests," "Miscellaneous Receipts."

Mr. Hobhouse.

1671. By far the largest proportion of this 400,000 *l.* arises from the London estate, does it not?—The London property is given on page 10, in 1879, 189,361 *l.*; up to 1888, 237,008 *l.*

1672. More than half arises from the London property?—Yes.

1673. And what proportion of that is ground-rents; I see ground-rents and houses" on page 7?—Ground-rents about 205,000 *l.*, and other house property 63,000 *l.*

1674. Then more than half, or about half of the 400,000 *l.* arises from ground-rents in London?—No; I have given you the total of the ground-rents all over my collection.

1675. From ground-rents, generally?—Yes.

1676. The rest arises from agricultural estates and from houses?—Yes, and woods. There are some woods, not forests.

1677. Under the first column of the receipts, I mean, on page 2?—You will get it at page 10 for the years from 1879 up to 1888.

1678. What I wanted to get at was this: of course the expenses of management of an agricultural estate are totally different from those of a London estate, an estate consisting of ground-rents?—Totally different.

1679. Therefore, I take it that it is very little guide to take the total outlay on the whole property and compare it with the total income without taking into account the proportion of the property that consists of ground-rents and the proportion that consists of agricultural estates?—To get the expenses in each?

1680. Yes; I take it that it is very little guide to us in estimating the expense of management on the whole property, to take the property in a lump, that we must distinguish what proportion of that property consists of ground rents, and what proportion consists of agricultural property?—It would be very difficult to work that out.

1681. You were asked to compare, just now, the cost of the management of this Crown property with the cost of the management of a great estate like the Duke of Bedford's?—Yes.

1682. I suppose in giving us the approximate figures of the cost of management of the Duke of Bedford's estate you were thinking of his agricultural property?—Yes.

1683. Not of his London property?—No; I gave it upon one estate only; I could have given it on others; I gave it on the Woburn estate.

1684. You were comparing the cost of Crown property with the cost of the Duke of Bedford's property?

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Colonel KINGSCOTE, C.B.

[Conti

Mr. Hobhouse—continued.

property with the cost of a large agricultural estate?—Yes.

1685. So far, you left out of account the fact that a very large proportion of this Crown property does not consist of agricultural property, but of ground-rents, and of town houses?—And also of forest, which is very much more expensive.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1686. I do not quite follow this table at page 3; kindly take 1850; you see the payment to the Consolidated Fund is 200,000 £.?—Yes.

1687. And the total follows that column of payment under the Consolidated Fund Act, 392,102 £.; that is made up, is it not, of the sum paid to the Consolidated Fund, and the totals of the other columns of payments?—Yes; that is a total.

1688. I have taken it out, and make it 192,302 £. 17 s. 11 d.; that 200,000 £., therefore, does not represent the amount of net receipts after deducting from the gross receipts for the year the total payments for the year; that you find by turning to the last column on the preceding page, 2?—£. 349,000.

1689. Three hundred and forty-nine thousand pounds is received during the year, and the total payment during the year amounted to 192,302 £.; therefore you deduct from the total receipts and the total payments the total expenses of collecting, and so on; the result is that instead of 200,000 £. you only earn, if I may put it so, or you only obtain, as the net result of your financial year 1850, 156,794 £.; do you follow me?—I follow you, but I have not worked it out. I will take your figures.

1690. I think you will find I am correct. In fact, if you take the 200,000 £. and deduct it from the 392,102 £. it proves itself, 192,000 £. expenses?—Yes.

1691. The result of that is that it is quite illusory to endeavour to establish any rule by which you can ascertain whether the expenses of your department are increasing or decreasing in proportion to the receipts by these tables?—I cannot answer for the tables, going back to 1850; but this document is handed to me by Mr. Culley, and which, with the permission of the Chairman, I will read:

“Land Revenues of the Crown.

“Cost of Management, &c., as compared with Private Estates.

“It is difficult to obtain facts as to the cost of managing private estates, because private owners are reticent and are naturally disinclined to submit their estate accounts to inspection.

“Two of the Sub-Commissioners under the Royal Commission on Agriculture (1882), known as the Duke of Richmond's Commission, did, however, obtain some information, and the Duke of Bedford and some few other proprietors furnished interesting particulars purporting to show the cost of managing, &c., certain of their estates, and the percentage of that cost to the receipts. Extracts from the Reports of these two Sub-

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

Commissioners are appended, and from this will be seen that the estates giving the results showed expenses and charges amounting to 21.1 per cent. of the income, while the most profitable showed charges and expenses amounting to from 82.9 per cent. to 119.3 per cent. of the receipts.

“In order to institute a comparison between these statements and the Crown land revenue would be necessary to investigate carefully these private estates consisted of, and to the expenditure by an examination of the accounts of the estates to be satisfied that the entire cost was included. This cannot be done, but in the absence of further information it is tolerably clear that the private estates are chiefly agricultural, and did not comprise town property. In the next place there are indications that the expenditure as stated does not include the cost of any central official staff for conducting the correspondence on questions of policy, for controlling the local management of the collection, and for bringing together the accounts and returns of many detached estates.

“Excluding the Royal Forests and Woods, the gross expenditure on the Crown revenue is 11.5 per cent. of the gross income, or, including the cost of the Office of Woods and Forests, Revenue Record Office, it is 16.3 per cent. In order to attempt any comparison of the results of the private estates with those of the Crown it would be necessary to exclude altogether the income and expenditure on account of the Crown's house property in London, and it would also be proper to exclude from the expenditure the cost of the Office of Woods, which is employed not only in regard to the management of the Crown property in every part of Great Britain, and in collecting and arranging the results, but also in satisfying the requirements of Parliament, the Treasury, and the Exchequer and Audit Departments. It is also quite clear that the Royal Forests and Woods must be excluded, inasmuch as no private owner has property of such a peculiar and profitable character.

“As regards the house property of the Crown in London, the receipts on account of it may be readily excluded, but it would be a very considerable labour to eliminate from the total the heads of receipt and expenditure that are attributable to the London house property.

“It may, however, be interesting to see what the result is if the rents of the London property are excluded without any deduction for the expenditure, or in other words, to assume that the London property contributing nearly half the entire Crown revenue costs nothing for management, or is entirely managed by the Office of Woods.

“Making this assumption the following figures show the amount of income and expenditure for 1887–88, as given in the Papers handed in to the Committee.

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Colonel KINGSCOTE, C.B.

[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

TABLE D.

Year ended 31st March 1888.

	£.
Income - - - - -	532,323
Deduct—	
London Property - - - - -	237,008
Windsor Park, &c. - - - - -	4,442
Royal Forests, &c. - - - - -	24,446
	265,896
Income to be compared - - - - -	266,427
Expenditure - - - - -	£. 98,245
Deduct—	
Windsor Park, &c. - - - - -	23,237
Royal Forests - - - - -	17,875
	41,112
Expenditure to be compared - - - - -	58,133

Taking these figures the result is that the expenditure is 21·8 per cent. of the income, as compared with 21·1 per cent., the lowest, and 23 per cent., the highest percentage in the list of the private estates. Classifying the expenditure the following is the result:—

	Expenditure.	Percentage of Total Income.
	£.	
Office of Collection and Management, Surveys, Plans, Mines, and Miscellaneous - - - - -	21,097	8·1
Grants, including Repayment of Advances from Capital - - - - -	20,134	7·6
Donations to Churches, Schools, &c. - - - - -	1,324	0·5
Repairs, Taxes, and Fixed Charges - - - - -	15,008	5·6
	58,133	21·8

It is necessary to bear in mind that these results are not accurate, and are obtained by deducting 237,008 £. from the receipts, without making any corresponding deduction from the expenditure, but they may serve as an indication of a perfectly accurate comparison could be made the cost of managing the Crown Land Revenues would compare favourably with that of the private Estates. Office of Woods, June 1889."

TRACTS from Report of Sub-Commissioners.

While on this subject I take the opportunity of drawing attention to two statements printed in Appendix BB., which give some particulars of the proportionate amount of landlords' rental which is absorbed in fixed charges, repairs, and improvements. The first of these statements relates to two exceptional years, and it may also be said to an exceptional estate. It will be seen by reference that in 1879 and in 1880 on an average out of every 100 £. received by the landlord in rent nearly 79 £. was disbursed in fixed charges, cost of management, repairs and works, the average of these being as follows:—Fixed charges 25·8; cost of management 10·5; repairs 11·1; and works 22·4 per cent. of the actual amount received for rent. The other account is also striking, but it probably represents a typical year, and being extended over a period of ten years, the variations due to exceptional expenditure are eliminated. It will be seen that the actual increase in rent from 1871, the mini-

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

"mum, to 1878, the maximum, is about 294 £., or 5½ per cent., and that of the whole amount of rent received 35½ per cent. is expended on the estate, and only 64½ per cent. is enjoyed by the owner. I have had the opportunity of looking through some other estate accounts which would exhibit similar characteristics, but I have not received full and detailed particulars which would enable me to present an analysis of estate expenditure. In one case I made the following note: 'The owner has been in possession nine years, and he has received in round numbers 90,000 £., out of which he has spent 25,651 £. in repairs and improvements'; and in another case 'I found that a rent-roll of 29,000 £. a-year was reduced to 20,000 £. when the necessary and unavoidable outgoings were deducted.' (The Statements were handed in, vide Appendix.)

1692. Before I leave these payments, you said, I think, in your evidence on Tuesday last, that all the fixed charges, donations to schools, and so on (I observe the "churches" are not stated there), are mainly made up of either gifts representing sites, or donations towards the erection of churches and schools?—And parsonage schools.

1693. Donations to churches, schools, institutions, and so on?—Those are all money payments. Those would not include the grant of any land.

1694. Under what section of the Act are the Commissioners empowered to make grants of this kind. I see the Act of 10 George IV. (the principal Act, I think I may call it), the 45th section, empowers the Commissioners to grant sites for churches or chapels, or for cemeteries, or sites for parochial or district schools?—Yes.

1695. But I have looked through the section and I do not find that it authorises the Commissioners to make grants of money?—I have not the Act before me, but it has been treated as part of the expense of management.

1696. You have told the Chairman, in reply to an inquiry made by him, as to whether the grants of money were exclusively made to the Establishment, to Church schools, that you are under the impression that you are limited by some statutory restriction?—We are not only under the impression, but we believe that we are acting under the authority of the Law Officers of the Crown, to whom this subject was referred, and that we were not able to give any grants except to Church of England churches and schools.

1697. I shall be glad if we could find out upon what ground that limitation is supposed to exist. Certainly as far as I have read the statutory provisions, I do not find any such restriction. I have not looked through the whole of them; but I do not find that there is any express authority given to the Commissioners to make donations at all; I dare say there may be a subsequent Statute?—I think if you will look at 10 George IV., and the 45th clause, you will see that we are empowered to grant sites for churches and that, under that, as I am advised (I am no lawyer myself), money grants can be made for such purposes.

1698. I cannot help thinking that you will find that there must be some other authority than that?—I do not know.

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Colonel KINGSCOTE, C.B.

[Continued]

Mr. Jackson.

1699. Do not you make money grants under section 113 of 10 George IV.?—"Applications of Annual Income of Land Revenue"; is that the one that you refer to?

1700. Has it not been always treated as part of the costs of management?—It has always, to the best of my belief, been treated, as I said before, as part of the costs of management.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1701. Then if it is part of the costs of management, I cannot understand upon what principle any legal authority can restrict it to the particular sect?—I do not understand it. The Law Officers of the Crown construe the 45th clause of this Act to refer only to the Church of England, that is, sites for churches.

Mr. Jackson.

1702. That creates a little confusion. The question, as answered by you on the former occasion, is taken as representing not only sites for churches, not only grants of land, but grants of money?—Yes; that is taken, as far as I know, as part of the costs of management. It was construed that that should be so under (I thought) the 113th clause.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1703. I am afraid we cannot ask or require the production of the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, but we should be glad to know something more definite about it?—The only thing I can say is, that I believe from 1850-51, the principle accepted by the Treasury and Commissioners has been that the management of the Crown lands should be just the same as that of any landed proprietor; and that therefore the Crown should contribute to the churches and schools.

1704. And "chapels"?—And the reason they were limited to Church of England churches and schools, was some analogy to that section in the Act which only gives to the Commissioners power to grant land to the Church of England.

Chairman.

1705. Which is the section?—Section 45.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1706. I do not accept that explanation at all?—I can only say that I think I have stated correctly the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown; but I am no lawyer.

1707. Would you mind reading that passage of the section (I do not want the whole of it read) which defines the authority as to that?—"Be it therefore enacted, That the King's most excellent Majesty, His heirs and successors, shall at any time hereafter have full power and authority out of the said Possessions and Land Revenues of the Crown to which this Act relates, to give

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

and grant to and vest in any body or bodies politic or corporate, or any person or persons whomsoever, and their heirs and successors respectively, for such estate or interest therein to His Majesty, His heirs and successors, as may seem meet, any building proper to be used as a dwelling-house, or any ground proper for the site of any church or chapel, with or without a cemetery or burial-ground thereto, or any ground proper for a cemetery or burial-ground, to any church or chapel, and any house, with its appurtenances, and with or without a garden thereunto, or any ground proper for the residence of the spiritual person who may serve such church or chapel, or any ground proper for the site or sites of any residence, or for any parochial or district school, or anything in this Act or any other law or statute to the contrary, in any wise notwithstanding.

Chairman.

1708. That is simply the Crown land?—I can only repeat that that has been construed by the Law Officers of the Crown as meaning applying only to the Church of England.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1709. I want to ask a question about sales of estates. I see that during the 38 years very large sales and exchanges have been made?—Yes.

1710. £2,575,000 has been realised by "sales of estates including receipts for equalisation and exchanges"?—Yes.

1711. Can you give the Committee an account apart from that last transaction, that you have explained to Sir William Harcourt, what the nature of those sales and exchanges is, or how many have been during this period. Have you sold any land in order to buy other land?—That was the case at one time. It is so now to a very small extent as I told you at the beginning of my evidence. I think to-day. I said: very few landed transactions have taken place lately.

1712. Not within your term?—Not within my term.

1713. You cannot tell us how it came about that so much conveyancing has gone on during this period. It represents a very large sale of money?—No; generally speaking I should think it is the sale of detached manors, estate plots of land.

1714. Then there would be the conveyancing and exchange?—Yes.

1715. And what strikes me about it is that there must have been a very great deal of land exchanged, as it seems to have involved a very large expense for conveyancing?—I am afraid I cannot give any information as to that.

1716. Those transactions occurred before you became Commissioner?—Those transactions occurred before I became Commissioner.

Tuesday, 2nd July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.
Mr. Charles Hall.
Sir William Harcourt.

Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Pinkerton.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw-Stewart.
Mr. Tuite.
Mr. Arthur Williams.

MR. HENEAGE, IN THE CHAIR.

Colonel Sir ROBERT NIGEL F. KINGSCOTE, K.C.B., again called in; and further Examined.

Chairman.

7. I BELIEVE you wish to make one or corrections in the evidence you gave last and to put in a further document?—

At the last meeting of the Committee I asked to prepare a statement showing out 10 years the position of the advances payments from and to the capital of the land on account of permanent improvements, ant to the Crown Lands Act, 1866. I have ingly had prepared, and now hand in, a ent, showing the total advances and rents down to, and the balance outstanding e 31st March 1878; and the advances and ements in, and the balances outstanding at se of each of the next succeeding 11 years, s down to the 31st March last. I was for this (*handing in a Document*).

I also asked to explain the large increase in its received from sales of produce in the 1854 to 1859, as shown in Paper A., which ut in by Mr. Culley. I have referred to eports to Parliament for those years of the issioners of Woods, and I find that the sed receipts were due principally to the nces then being effected of the Crown ents in the forests of Hainault and Which-

In those forests the clearance of the r allotments commenced in 1853-54, and f the latter in or about 1856-57. If any ers of the Committee wish to see the par- rs they are to be found in the Reports liament of the Commissioners of Woods e years to 31st of March 1857 and 1858, , the 35th and 36th Reports. They fur- ll particulars of the disafforestation of those orests, and the proceedings in reference o. If I might, I should like to refer to ion 1476 of the last day's evidence. I only ed the print this morning; still I think er to correct it. Questions 1476 to 1494 l asked upon the same subject, which is as ds fees received by Mr. Clutton; and, I they do not quite convey properly what ould convey. I should like, therefore, 33.

Chairman—continued.

just to state that in a building agreement, and a building agreement only, it is common to provide that a fee of a fixed sum shall be paid to the Crown surveyor for each house, for examining the designs for that house, and the fee being fixed by the agreement. Mr. Clutton, or whoever the receiver may be, is left to collect it as he pleases. The Department takes no responsibility in connection with it, nor does it make any inquiry, as a rule, as to whether it is paid or not. The consequence is, that although the fees are themselves fixed, we have no information, except by inquiry of Mr. Clutton, as to the total amount of such fees which he may receive in any particular year. I believe, in some cases, Mr. Clutton has had to lose his fees from men going bankrupt. If we collected them, we should have to take that responsibility.

1718. In point of fact, the Commissioners allow him to collect these fees, but are in no way responsible for the collection of them?—That is the case.

Mr. Isaacs.

1719. Before you go away from that, does that fee apply to the examination of designs only, or does it cover the superintendence of the new building?—Suppose, we will say, we have let some land at Dover on building leases, the agreement would be drawn up, and in that agreement it would be stated that Mr. Clutton's fees (he would be the surveyor there) for each house, should be 1 *l.* 11 *s.* or 2 *l.*, or whatever it may be, that is in the agreement, and from that agreement he is able to draw that fee.

1720. The question I was addressing to you was this: does that fee embrace the mere inspection of the designs for the buildings, or does it include the superintendence of the buildings?—Only the passing of the plan. It would be a very small fee. In Question 1525, as to the limit of the balance left in Mr. Clutton's hands, I stated there that it should not be more than 500 *l.* at a time; but I find that in 1886 I wrote Mr. Clutton a letter giving him power to keep 1,000 *l.*

K

2 July 1889.]

Colonel Sir R. N. F. KINGSCOTE, K.C.B.

[Co

Mr. Isaacs—continued.

1,000 *l.* as a balance, because sometimes on account of the farms in land he required that balance for the purchase of stock or something of that sort. It was merely with reference to the farms in hand, nothing else. Therefore in his accounts you may see that he has got a balance of over 500 *l.* occasionally.

1721. Then was it a temporary arrangement for farming purposes, and nothing to do with the management of the property?—Nothing whatever.

1722. Have you any other correction to make?—No.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

1723. Are your leasing powers limited in any way with reference to letting land for building purposes?—By 10 George 4, Clause 22, it is enacted “for any term not exceeding 31 years from the time of making the lease or agreement for a lease,” that is, for a general lease. Then for a building lease you will see that the next Clause, 23, says, “not exceeding 99 years.”

1724. Have you got much building land in the north of England, or have you developed any building estates in the north of England?—No.

1725. Have you any town property in the north of England?—Do you mean in Yorkshire and Northumberland?

1726. Yes?—No; it is nearly all agricultural property.

1727. You have not got property in the towns?—No, none; I do not know of any. We have a small property in Hull; it consists of a warehouse, I think. It is a property that was escheated to the Crown not so very long ago.

1728. Upon what terms is that let?—That is let upon a lease of under 30 years, I think.

1729. You have never been asked for leases of 99 years?—No, not in my experience.

1730. Have you sold land in your experience for building purposes, out and out, in the north?—No, not in the north.

1731. Then most of your land, which you have developed for building purposes, is in the south of England?—Yes.

1732. Has that been nearly all developed on leases of about 99 years, or less of course?—Yes; that is to say, on a 99 years’ lease, most of them; some shorter.

1733. I see that some of your land in the metropolis is let on shorter leases?—Yes.

1734. I suppose you take each case on its own merits?—We take each case on its own merits.

1735. And consider partly the value of the land, I suppose?—Yes; the situation and the nature of the building to be erected.

1736. Then in reference to the agricultural land, as to the farms that you have had in hand, have you ever made any calculation at all as to how much the losses have been on them during the time of depression?—Yes; I can tell you each year what the loss or the gain has been.

Chairman.

1737. I suppose the land generally would be in a worn-out state?—It generally comes into hand very much worn out indeed. You can get the loss or gain from the Parliamentary Reports. I

Chairman—continued.

thought I had it here. There is one Bedfordshire that has been farmed for some years. I am not sure that it does not now pay its rent.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

1738. I would ask you this question: you found the policy of spending a considerable amount on stocking a farm fairly successful in one or two cases you have spent a good deal of money?—Yes; I think I may answer the question generally; we have found it successful.

1739. Some private owners who have been farming these farms have made a very good thing of it, and some corporate owners. For instance, some of the colleges I have been connected with have tried farming farms, but have fallen into hand, and have lost a good deal of money by it; that is not your experience?—I am afraid that if you look at it altogether you would see that we have lost a considerable amount of money, but I think it has been chiefly because the farm has been run out when it has come in hand.

1740. Might I put it in this way: in the case of any individual farm on which a considerable amount of capital has been laid out a good deal of capital; looking at the result, would you come to the conclusion that it might have been better to leave the farm in the hands of the original owner, and not invest capital upon it at all?—I do not know, I do not know.

1741. Yes, and not put stock on it?—No, I cannot say that. I do not know what I was looking for, as far as the result is concerned, and, I think, I might say generally that after the farms have been farmed by the State, such as we put into them, and we have seen the bad state they were in when we took them in hand, we farm them fairly, and get a substantial rent.

1742. I see, on page 131 of the Parliamentary Report, you state that the stock and the value of two farms are of considerable value. Whichwood and Whichwood?—Since that time I have let the farm at Shroton, which is Whichwood one is in hand, and I think it is likely to be in hand.

1743. That is managed by a bailiff?—Yes, managed by a bailiff, under Mr. Clutton. I visit it occasionally; once a year, perhaps.

1744. You think it is going on very well?—I am told that it is very much improved, but I have not seen it this year; I saw it last year.

1745. What is your arrangement as to the payment of tithes on the agricultural land?—The tenants pay the tithes.

1746. Always?—Always.

1747. In the case of reletting farms, after a number of years you have never made the arrangement that the Crown should pay the tithes?—No, by an Act of Parliament, we are not allowed to do so.

1748. I should like to know about the tithes, is that clear?—We have always considered it clear. By Section 27 of 10 Geo. 4, it is enacted that “And be it further enacted that in all cases where the tithes shall be granted under the authority of this Act, the rents shall be reserved and made payable to the Crown.”

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[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

Majesty, to his heirs and successors, free and clear of all manner of taxes and assessments whatsoever."

1749. What is the date of that?—That is 0 Geo. 4, c. 50.

1750. And you take that to include the tithe?—We take that to include the tithe; we always have so taken it, and we believe it to be correct.

1751. You consider yourselves precluded by law, in fact, from paying the tithe?—Yes, we consider ourselves precluded.

1752. The original purpose of the Tithes Act was rather that the landlord should pay, was it not?—That may be; but then this guides us. We have to be guided by that Act.

1753. Then you have never gone into the question as a matter of policy as to whether it is advisable for the landlord to pay the tithe, simply because you have no power?—We have discussed it very often with the Crown Receivers; but we have felt ourselves bound by this Act, and we could not move.

1754. Otherwise you might have considered it possibly a wise measure to take?—Yes, we should have considered it so.

1755. You would have so considered it?—Yes.

1756. What do you do about insurance; do you insure all the farm buildings?—The tenants insure the buildings; we insure those in hand.

1757. I see there are in one or two cases small rents down for allotments; are there a large number of allotments on the estate?—Yes, on almost every estate there are allotments.

1758. Have you developed the allotments of late years; have you increased them?—Yes; we have developed them rather, this last two years, where there has been a demand for them.

1759. How do you become cognizant of the demand?—The Crown Receivers hear of it; the people know who to apply to; sometimes they apply direct to him, sometimes to me.

1760. Sometimes you get letters from the labourers?—Yes; but generally through the Crown Receiver, whether it is in the north or in the south.

1761. That is to say, the labourers would go to him and tell him they wanted more allotment land?—Yes, there have been several instances. Since the Allotments Act was passed there has been a move all over England about it, as you are aware, more or less.

1762. Do you always do your best to meet them?—We always have done.

1763. Have you experienced much difficulty with the farmers when you have had to take land from farmers from time to time?—No, I cannot say we have. In one case we had some little difficulty.

1764. What sort of rent are they paying for the allotments; it varies, of course, a good deal?—It varies a good deal; but I should say from 30 s. to 2 l. 10 s.; and, of course, free of all rates and taxes, and keeping up the fences, and access to them, and roads.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1765. Is it not as high as 3 l.?—There may be a case of 3 l. I believe 2 l. 10 s. would be the highest.

0.103.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

1766. On the whole, it would not be much beyond the agricultural value for a farm?—No; very little, I think.

1767. Then as to the cottages; what arrangement do make about the cottages on the estate; who do the labourers pay to?—There are generally a certain number of cottages given to each farm tenant with the farm.

1768. Are you the owner of any whole villages, or nearly the whole village?—Not quite the whole village, I think. The Crown is owner of the major part of one or two villages.

1769. Where are those situated; where are your largest blocks of agricultural property?—Bishop Cannings, near Devizes, in Wiltshire. I should say that there the Crown hold the majority of the cottages, but not more than a bare majority; then there is Stagsden, in Bedfordshire. I should not think the Crown did hold the majority of the cottages there, although it has a considerable number.

1770. And in Lincolnshire?—In Billingborough, in Lincolnshire. I should say the Crown hold the minority of cottages in that village, although it has a large extent of land in a ring fence there. I do not think we try to hold more cottage property than we need.

1771. Is your policy, then, rather to put the cottages under the farmers as far as you reasonably can?—As far as we reasonably can. We keep cottages to meet their requirements; but beyond that I do not aim to keep more cottages than I can help.

1772. Of course the cottages actually on the farms naturally must be in the farmers hands?—Yes.

1773. But if you take the cottages in the villages do you think it is a good thing to put them under the farmers, so far as the farmers require them?—No, not further than the requirements of the farmers go; I would sooner have them in hand myself.

1774. And receive the rents yourself?—And receive the rents myself; although I have been very glad to have very little cottage property.

1775. But I mean in the interest of the labourer on the whole, it is better now that you should receive the rent than that the farmers should have all the cottages in their own hands to do as they like with?—It is. I know of no instance under the Crown where the farmers hold any cottages further than for the requirements of the farm.

1776. What do you consider roughly to be the requirement, if you take a farm of 400 acres?—It depends upon how much is arable. It is impossible almost to say. In purely arable farms in the Fens of Lincolnshire you must have a considerable number of cottages, because the farmers there keep so many horses. It is impossible to lay down any line; you must judge according to the nature of the farm.

1777. And in the case where you have got cottages yourself, what are the ordinary terms; what would be the arrangement with the labourer in the case of the cottage for which you receive the rent?—It would be let to him upon the terms of the country, what is usually paid.

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1778. Whatever

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[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

1778. Whatever is the custom of the district?
—According to the custom of the district.

1779. I understand that you have never had any actual request to sell or let land for a Non-conformist chapel?—Not since I have been in the office.

1780. It might become, I suppose, a difficulty at any time if you had to refuse such a request?—It has not happened since I have been there; but there have been cases where land has been sold (but simply sold) for building chapels upon, or a school.

1781. Of course you are not in the least prevented from selling a piece of land?—No, we can sell.

1782. And that probably would be a way out of the difficulty if it arose?—Yes.

1783. All that you are prevented from is letting land?—No, not letting. We might perhaps grant a lease, but we could not grant land to any other than the Church of England.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1784. You could not give it?—We could not give it.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

1785. You could not give it; then you can let or sell without difficulty?—Yes; there is nothing to restrict one's selling at a proper value, and a value sworn to by a valuer.

1786. The point that we have been discussing before upon this subject is really the question of donation?—That has been entirely the case.

1787. Either of land or of money, really?—Yes.

1788. Or, of course, of letting it below its value on a charitable footing?—Yes; that I should have no power to do.

1789. Then you do not feel yourself that there is very much difficulty in that matter in the law as it stands at present?—No, I think not.

1790. It does not really affect you seriously?—No.

1791. As to the purchases which you have made (some very large purchases) in recent years, have you ever kept any separate account to show whether they have been good investments, or what per-centage you obtain?—Do you mean on agricultural estates bought.

1792. Yes?—I could get them out; the recent ones. I have not made any since I have been at the Woods and Forests. The two most recent ones are Bishop Cannings in Wiltshire and Stagsden in Bedfordshire.

1793. Have you kept any account which would show, for instance, whether the Stagsden purchase has been a remunerative one or not?—I am afraid it has not.

1794. How long ago was it bought?—I think it was about 1875 or 1873.

1795. It was bought in good times, then?—It was bought at the very time when all stiff corn land was fetching a very high price, and I am afraid since then it is nothing but going down hill so far as prices are concerned.

1796. Then your policy for the last 20 years or 15 years or so has been not to buy agricultural land?—No; I think none has been bought lately, except very small bits to complete a boundary

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

or accommodation land, or something of the sort.

1797. You have been rather afraid of purchases of that kind?—Yes. I have not attempted any purchases, except little bits such as I have mentioned.

1798. Would you tell us when the Bishop Cannings estate was bought, or about what time?—About 1870, I think. I am not quite positive about it; I could easily ascertain.

1799. You could give us the purchase-money?—Yes, you will find it in our Reports.

1800. It would be in one of the Reports; the purchase-money in both cases?—Yes, the whole particulars. As I had nothing to do with the purchase, I do not remember when it was. It was before my time.

1801. Then in towns you go on buying land if it is necessary?—Yes; since I have been Commissioner, there have been one or two very large purchases.

1802. I see in this Report there are two large purchases in the metropolis?—Yes; in the metropolis.

1803. How are you guided in that respect; you simply buy a given property?—We buy property that we think will pay a good per-centage, if we can get it, at so many years purchase. I think the purchases made last year were at an average $26\frac{1}{2}$ or $26\frac{1}{4}$ years value of the ground-rents.

1804. If you could see your way to remunerative purchases at any time, you could make considerable further purchases?—Yes; to the extent of the capital that we have. We cannot speculate; we can only use the capital we have on hand at the time.

1805. Then what is the general policy; are you able to re-invest; supposing you make a large sale, are you desired to re-invest, if you can remuneratively?—The Act, in fact, lays it down. "It shall be lawful for the said Commissioners for the time being of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues from time to time to contract for, and purchase for, and on behalf of His Majesty, his heirs or successors, manors, lordships, messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments in fee-simple, or any copyhold lands or hereditaments the freehold of which shall be in the Crown, or any rents," &c. We get a great deal of this, in fact.

1806. And there is no limitation as to agricultural or town property?—No.

1807. You might give up buying agricultural land, and take to buying town land?—That is entirely at our discretion.

1808. That is really what you have been doing of late?—That is really what we have been doing of late.

1809. Do you ever buy any ground-rents?—We have done so.

1810. Have you done so of late?—They are principally ground-rents that we have bought of late years.

1811. Principally ground-rents?—Yes, almost entirely.

1812. Special

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[Continued.]

Mr. Donald Crawford.

1812. Speaking to Mr. Acland, you have mentioned that you have let out a good many townships lately. You did not mention what the ordinary size was. What is the ordinary size?—We have confined them mostly to half an acre. In one or two places we have allowed, I think, up to an acre, but that is rather exceptional. We have also in two places, or one place certainly, let what we call small holdings of two or three acres, but not exceeding three acres.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

1813. Would that be grass?—No, nearly all arable land.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

1814. I believe under your Acts you have complete powers to sell, have not you. You can sell anything you like, is that so?—Yes, we can sell, except the parks and forests. The only thing we have no power to sell.

1815. And are you guided by any definite line of policy in exercising those powers; are there particular kinds of property which you are to sell, or do you desire to hold everything if you can?—My line of policy would be, to sell land that was rather higher in value, to sell some of these very outlying farms, and either concentrate them or put the money to some other purpose. I think there are many farms outlying which make it very expensive for the collection of the rents and for the looking after them, and they would be far better gone; but just at the present moment it is no good to think of that I think. I am trying to sell at this moment a small outlying farm, which will require a good deal of outlay, and devoted to the Crown not very long ago; at the time the lease is only finished now; I am trying to sell it, but whether I shall be able to get any money for it or not, I do not know.

1816. I see that is one reason why the land is so expensive and expensive to manage?—It is; it is so all over England in 23 counties.

1817. With that exception, is there any deduction of property in particular that you have it a policy to get rid of when you can?—There is no other property except copyholds. I try to sell the copyholds; fee-farm rents and any small charges like that I try to sell.

1818. Because they are unimproveable, I suppose?—They are unimproveable. You will see the reports some small sums that have been received yearly by these sales.

1819. You have been a Commissioner about four years, have not you?—About four years.

1820. Can you say, roughly, about what value of property has been sold of the part under your charge during that time?—I can give you the value of estates and copyholds which are under my charge during the last four years.

1821. Perhaps you would give the figures in round numbers?—During the last four years (that is, 1885–86 to 1888–89) I have sold 10,222 l. worth of copyholds, that is, including enfranchisements.

1822. How has that money been re-invested?—It has been paid into capital and re-invested in the same, or it may have gone in other purchases.

1823. It first goes into the general fund, and then?—0.103.

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

then is drawn upon just as it is wanted!—Just as we want to make any purchases.

1824. If the purchase-money is derived from one source, suppose it is derived from the sale of an agricultural estate or from copyholds, do you try to get a similar investment, say an agricultural estate, or do you buy a metropolitan property, or ground rents or anything else?—Anything; when the money is paid in we use it in any way we like.

(Mr. Jackson here took the Chair.)

1825. Does the amount of investment in the metropolis increase, compared with the whole property held by the Commissioners, the amount of ground rents and other property in London, does that tend to increase?—It has increased very largely from the purchases we have made.

1826. That is what I mean. I am asking you whether, as a rule, in point of fact, you re-invest money that is derived from agricultural estates in agricultural estates, or whether it happens that the investments are chiefly of late years on property in London?—Formerly money was invested in the purchase of agricultural estates, because it was thought that good interest could be had from them. Since the agricultural depression it has not been deemed advisable to purchase any agricultural property, but it has been deemed advisable to purchase ground rents in London.

1827. I forget how the estates are divided between you and Mr. Culley, have you any salmon fishings and foreshores in your charge?—I have no salmon fishings.

1828. Have you foreshores?—Yes, I have foreshores.

1829. Where have you foreshores?—In Durham and Northumberland?—They are scattered about all over England. I have some in Sussex in the South.

1830. Do you often make sales of foreshores?—I have made sales, chiefly to corporations, or for some use in the way of piers, or abutments, or something of that description.

1831. Is there any policy with regard to foreshores, do the Commissioners desire to keep them, as a rule, in their own hands, or desire to sell to proprietors *ex adverso* the shore, or is there any particular policy in that way?—I do not think we have any desire to prevent anybody purchasing who really wants foreshore for a *bonâ fide* purpose. Of course we are sometimes restricted by the nature of the situation; as regards the War Department, we should not like to sell without consulting them or the Admiralty, as regards forts and fortifications. As a matter of fact we do not sell to anybody but the frontager, except corporations, as I have said, or public bodies.

1832. You do not sell except to a frontager?—No, not as a general rule. There might be an exception, but I do not know of one at this present moment.

Mr. Isaacs.

1833. I take it that it is an instruction in the department that, as you sell property, the money shall be re-invested in the most lucrative and most recuperative investment that you can find?—That we can find.

1834. I infer

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[Continued]

Mr. Isaacs—continued.

1834. I infer from the answer that you gave to Mr. Acland just now, that the department is under the impression that that remunerative investment is not to be found in agricultural land?—That is my impression.

1835. In your examination-in-chief last week, I think the figures you gave us show that the values received from farm lands have diminished in the last 10 or 15 years as much as 33 per cent.?—Yes, about that.

1836. Then it does not follow that if you sell woods, or any portion of the outlying lands, say at the New Forest, that you must re-invest in the same class of property?—I would rather not answer for the New Forest. Mr. Culley has that under his charge.

1837. You have been purchasing, I see, in London two estates that are mentioned in your Report; one in the City of London, and one at Westminster?—Yes.

1838. Those are freeholds; you purchased the ground-rents?—Yes.

1839. In the City of Westminster, I see that you have given at the rate of 25 years' purchase?—Yes.

1840. And in the City of London you have given, I think, as much as 27 years' purchase?—I thought it was just under 27.

1841. It is as near 27 as possible?—I know we did give a rather higher price. It joins other property belonging to the Crown.

1842. I am not finding fault with the price at all; what I wanted to get at was simply this: were these properties purchased in the open market, at a sale, or by private treaty?—The property in Gracechurch-street was purchased at a public auction; the other was by private contract.

1843. Who advises the prices in these instances?—Mr. Cates.

(*Mr. H. H. Fowler here took the Chair.*)

1844. Does he give in these instances the outside price to which the parties should go?—Yes; he advised the outside price.

1845. Who attends the sale, may I ask?—Mr. Cates attends generally, or somebody deputed by him. I think he generally attends himself.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

1846. Perhaps I might ask one or two questions arising out of the questions of Mr. Acland with reference to the allotments. Have you a great number of cottages scattered about on the estates?—Yes, a very considerable number, taking all the estates.

1847. Take Bishop Cannings, which is a Wiltshire property?—Yes.

1848. I understand you have a great part of the village of Bishop Cannings?—Yes; I should say the Crown has half the cottages.

1849. Have you made allotments in the village there out of Crown property?—There have been no fresh ones, I think. There always have been a large lot of allotments. That property was bought from the late Mr. Sothern Estcourt, and he turned his attention to allotments early in the allotment days.

1850. Almost all are divided, are they?—Yes, I think I may say almost without exception; the

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

cottages built by the Crown (every cottage wherever it may be), have had always sufficient garden.

1851. Every cottage built by the Crown?—Yes, every cottage built by the Crown when they have been rebuilt or added anything of that sort. I think you will hardly any cottages belonging to the Crown without a considerable piece of garden ground adjoining them.

1852. Good garden?—Good garden; the allotments independent of those allotments.

1853. That is independent of those allotments?—In most cases.

1854. In some cases, I observe, you have the experiment of holding rather more than one allotment; two or three acres?—Yes, in one or two cases. For instance, near Stratford, which is close, as you know, to Weedon Station, there seems to be a demand for them from people employed upon the railway, some of whom wish to have a larger piece of ground than the ordinary agricultural labourer could properly look after. Where we have granted that to be the case we have granted it.

1855. In every case where the application has been made the allotment has been given, has it?—I will not say "in every case where demand has been made" it has been granted because we have had some rather preposterous demands made upon us. I think I might say, and truly, that where the necessity has been shown, the demand has been met, and it has been met.

1856. No reasonable application has been refused?—No reasonable application has been refused; but we certainly have refused in some cases, in purely agricultural villages, to give more than, perhaps, half an acre to each man.

1857. May I ask whether, in the agricultural villages, application has been made for more than half an acre to each man?—There have been applications for more.

1858. You have not thought it wise to grant more?—No; and in some cases the demand has been, I may say preposterous. They want the very best land belonging to the farm; and perhaps grass land, and would wish to break it up. That one could not allow.

1859. Half an acre of course is let upon the understanding that it is to be used for agriculture?—Yes, it is all let for that, and the small holdings of two or three acres, of which there are very few.

1860. Let me take first the case where you have granted the application for these small holdings of from two to three acres. How long has that experiment been tried?—About 10 years I should think. There are cases where it has been going on for some few years, and where the holding of three, four, or five acres; but there have been the exception.

1861. In cases where they have been granted sufficiently long to enable you to form an opinion, has the experience been that it has been successful?—I think it has, where the tenant has not attempted to live entirely upon the holding, where he has had some other occupation which has helped him. For instance, in the case of the

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1862. I know of one where he has had a windmill. Another case I know of is a small deer. I do not know of any case where a man living actually "off" his three acres without having some other source of income.

1863. You have no case within your knowledge?—Not at the present moment.

1864. At Stoney Stratford has the demand been large?—The demand was made I should think about three years ago, and it was met entirely. I think we met the entire demand. I have had no further application.

1865. You cannot say roughly how many applications were made?—The application came through one source, I think. It came in a petition signed by, I think, about 30 or 40 people, or not so many as that; I forget how many. There were a good many signatures; we may say 25 to 30 signatures.

1866. Twenty-five or 30 people who applied? That was for allotments; that was not for small holdings.

1867. Of those applications, how many were for two to three acres; that is what I want to know?—Very few; I think there were four or five.

1868. This is only two or three years ago?—It may be three years ago, I think, or about two years ago.

1869. May I ask in that case, what rate per acre the rent is?—I think it is 30 s., and no outgoings for the tenants.

1870. None whatever?—No, not for that that is set in those small holdings and allotments.

1871. What was the prevalent rate per acre there?—I think the farm from which it was taken, which we had in hand at that time, was a good deal run out. I think the rent was 25 s., but it may have been less, certainly not more. We have let the farm since at, I think I may say, about 1 l. to 25 s.

1872. Things seem to be looking up a little there?—Well, I hope so.

1873. With reference to the farms in hand, have you kept a separate debtor and creditor account (a business account), from the time that each individual farm came into your hands?—Yes.

1874. So that you are able to find out how much capital you have sunk?—We know what we have paid on coming in; we shall know what we give when we go out. We do take a valuation each year, whether it is correct or not I would not say. We try to make it correct. You see in the Parliamentary Account only gives the land, whereas, there is all the live and dead stock on the farm as well.

1875. It does not give a profit and loss account at all?—No.

1876. If we could get at the profit and loss of each of those farms, what do you think would be the result?—I am afraid it would be a loss, and considerable loss.

Mr. Isaacs.

1877. Just following up that question, I suppose you were to allow the land to go derelict, you would absolutely have to put a farmer in, free of cost, for several years, to get the land into condition again; or more than that?—Yes; most probably nobody would take it.

D. 103.

Chairman.

1877. Will you turn to the Blue Book, page 123. This is a capital account of the repairs and improvements of Crown estates?—Yes.

1878. There are several items, before I ask the question, upon that which I should like to call your attention to; they are "Stagsden—Repairs to cottage 18 s. 3 d." Have you got that?—Yes.

1879. There is "Chester, Delamere,—Repairs to Eddisbury Lodge, 5 l."?—Yes.

1880. There is in "Gloucester, Hagloe—Repairs to river wall, 18 s."?—Yes.

1881. Then there is at "Saint Briavel's Castle—Caretaker's wages, 1 l. 12 s. 6 d."?—Yes.

1882. Then we come to "Eltham Woods—Wages of woodman and other expenses, 6 l."?—Yes.

1883. Now I should like to ask you upon what principle those various items are charged to capital?—This is the income account.

1884. No, this is the expenditure on improvement for which these sums of between 200 l. and 300 l. are taken?—Those are not items charged to capital; that is page 113.

1885. The page to which I was referred, either by yourself or some other witness, was where the expenditure of that money was to be found?—That is annual income.

1886. There were several questions asked upon this, and if that is a mistake it will have to be corrected in the evidence?—I think it was page 113 that I answered the questions about before.

1887. Then that explains it. The only question then I would like to ask there would be, with whom rests the right of settling whether this is to be paid for out of income, or paid for out of that fund?—I refer it to the Crown Receiver at stated times, and he apportions it. It then comes back to me, and I send it to the Treasury for approval.

1888. Do you exercise yourself any independent judgment upon it?—Yes, certainly.

1889. Then you hold yourself responsible?—I hold myself responsible.

1890. I wanted to know that. The Crown Receiver expresses his opinion to you; but you hold yourself responsible for the expenditure of that money?—I hold myself responsible for the expenditure. As a matter of fact, we often have very considerable discussion on the point; I do not say on these particular items you have just mentioned, but upon others.

1891. We have not had any evidence as to the legal expenses; perhaps it would be more convenient to take that from Mr. Gorst, would it?—I think it would.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

1892. I think in the course of your evidence you expressed an opinion that the expenses of managing the property were largely due to its scattered nature?—It must be to a certain extent.

1893. You have, under your management, I think you stated, 69,000 acres in 23 English counties?—Yes, that is correct, I think.

1894. Could you give us the acreage in each of those counties?—I do not think it has been

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Colonel Sir R. N. F. KINGSCOTE, K.C.B.

[Continued]

Sir Michael Hicks Beach—continued.

printed yet; but I put in a Statement as to that.

1895. Have you got a copy of it?—I have only got a rough copy. As put in, it was made out for the year 1888-89; but the Chairman asked me mostly about 1887-88. I was going to suggest whether I should have it made out for 1887-88; I can answer as to 1888-89, but I have not it made out for 1887-88.

1896. That will not affect it. Would you give it for 1888-89 please?—What is it you want me to give?

1897. I should like to separate the property. Take first, the 52,700 acres under Mr. Clutton's management. In what counties is that situate, and how much in each county?—In Bedford, 2,869 acres, besides 323 acres in hand; Berkshire, 904 acres; Buckinghamshire, 297 acres; Cambridgeshire, 896 acres; Dorsetshire, 248 acres; Essex, 4,176 acres; Gloucestershire, 752 acres; Hampshire, 29 acres; Huntingdonshire, 1,058 acres; Kent, 3,722 acres, besides 334 acres in hand; Lincolnshire, 12,378 acres, and 357 acres in hand; Norfolk, 195 acres; Northamptonshire, 282 acres, and 264 acres in hand; Oxfordshire, 3,228 acres, and 489 acres in hand; Suffolk, 572 acres; Surrey, 2,286 acres; Sussex, 3,698 acres; Wiltshire, 8,835 acres. That is Mr. Clutton's acreage.

1898. Could you give us Mr. Gore's?—Yes.

1899. He has 16,700 acres, I think?—Approximately. Chester, 2,460 acres; Durham, eight acres; Lancashire, 1,226 acres; Nottinghamshire, 363 acres; York, 17,365 acres.

1900. Could you make any general statement as to the counties in which there is property exceeding 1,000 acres, whether the property is scattered in those counties, or is generally in large estates?—I do not know whether this map would give the Committee any idea; it is of my own knowledge; but where all these red figures are, is where there is Crown property. That shows how scattered it is.

Mr. Isaacs.

1901. Is that in England alone?—That is in England alone. (*The map was handed in.*)

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

1902. Take for instance Kent; there was a large area in Kent?—Kent is very much scattered. I mean there is property near Blackheath, property at Dover, and property in several places, Eltham amongst others.

1903. Therefore, even a division of property among counties does not represent how scattered the property is?—No, not in all cases.

1904. Take the counties in which there is less than 1,000 acres in each; I find 11 of those; nine in Mr. Clutton's district and two in Mr. Gore's?—Yes.

1905. In one of them, in Durham, there is as little as eight acres. Hampshire as little as 29 acres, and Norfolk 195 acres; has there been any systematic attempt made by the Commissioners, either in your time, or before it, to bring their properties more together?—Yes, it has began the policy of the Commissioners for many

Sir Michael Hicks Beach—continued.

years past to try and sell the outlying property and to concentrate it more.

1906. Since when?—Since 1851, I should for many years past. That was my predecessor's policy I know.

1907. The last 30 years?—Yes.

1908. They have not got very far in that direction yet then?—In the last few years there have been, you may say, a complete stoppage. Since the agricultural depression set in there could be no selling of agricultural property except at a very heavy loss.

1909. You might sell cheaply in one place and buy cheaply in another, might you not?—You might. It is rather a bold man who buys or sells agricultural land now, I think.

1910. Would not some of these small properties be likely to sell to neighbouring landowners?—I do not know of any. I have made one attempt, and as I have told the Committee this morning. I am making an attempt now to a small outlying farm; whether it will be successful or not I do not know.

1911. Have you complete power to act as you choose in the matter?—Yes, I think so, as I have explained to the Committee just now, when I went into that. I may say in reference to what I have asked me, as regards the number of acres in different counties, that the agricultural map does not in all cases represent the whole estate. Take Kent for instance; near Dover there is building property. In Durham, there is Chop Wood; it is in a ring fence. Here is eight acres meadow land; seven acres house land and outbuildings, and land for cottage sites, seven acres, then woods for thinning, 871 acres.

1912. Take those eight acres in Durham; there other property besides that in Durham?—Yes, there is nearly 900 acres.

1913. Adjoining the eight acres?—Adjoining the eight acres. That eight acres is meadow land which comes into what you may call agricultural property, and the other is Chop Wood, and cottages belonging to it and in it.

1914. Take the 29 acres in Hampshire, does that adjoin another class of land?—Twenty acres of that 29 acres is land adjacent to the Castle of Carisbrooke, and seven acres have been sold. It is part of the site of an old fort.

1915. Take the 195 acres in Norfolk; do you have any other land in Norfolk besides that?—No, I think not. I know that of my own knowledge.

1916. However, are you satisfied that as much has been done as could be done in this way by sale and purchase?—I think so. As far as I know estates were sold where they could be sold at a fair price, and others were bought.

1917. Have you advertised any of the outlying properties for sale, and failed to sell them?—No, I have not advertised lately, except one small property in Essex which I am trying to sell. There is one to be sold now in Kent, a small outlying farm; at least it will be put up, I cannot say that it will be sold. That is because the tenant is leaving; his lease is up, I should have to re-let it and probably make a large outlay upon it.

1918. H

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[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Acland.

18. Have you much agricultural land let on lease?—Not very much.

19. Only a very small proportion?—There is not as much land now held on leases as on copy tenancies, but relettings effected now are the most part on annual or short tenancies.

20. It is nearly all let on annual agreement?—The relettings are mostly on annual tenancies.

21. What is your limitation?—Thirty-one years.

22. Had you formerly before the depression let on lease?—At one time, I believe, before I became Commissioner nearly every farm was let upon lease.

23. What was the usual term?—The usual term was 31 or 32 years.

24. Yes?—I think 31 or 32 years. They are a matter of fact, I believe, vary very greatly in the length of the lease.

25. That has nearly all passed away now, is it nearly all annual agreement, is it?—Yes, they are nearly all annual leases.

Mr. Jackson.

26. Is that due to your desire, or the desire of the tenants?—There is no desire to take leases.

27. On the part of the tenants?—On the part of the tenants.

Chairman.

28. You never have made any systematic attempt to sell the out-lying property by auction?—No.

29. Now what is the objection to that?—I think it was done many years ago.

30. I am talking of now?—No, I have made no attempt whatever.

31. Then practically we may really take it back to Sir Michael Hicks Beach's question, the selling question has been suspended?—It is so far as I am concerned.

32. That being so I should like to ask you whether it would not be in the interest of the Crown that a lot of this outlying property be sold and the money either re-invested in the Funds, and the cost of management to that extent reduced?—My experience of the sale of any agricultural land now is that it would have to be sold at so very small an amount that I do not believe it would pay the cost to sell.

33. I think you are rather ante dating your experience. Agricultural land is not selling now; its price is rising?—I hope I shall find that to be the case.

34. Of course, as Sir Michael Hicks Beach says if you sell cheaply you can buy cheaply, therefore if you wanted to sell in Norfolk or invest in Norfolk the same principle would apply to both the sale and the purchase. What do you think, whether you and your colleagues, Commissioners, have ever considered the question of selling a lot of this outlying property?—I have often considered it, and talked it over with others, but I have never seen that it is worth while going to the expense of doing it.

35. And you think that the present rental of these properties after deducting, say, what is the cost of management?

Chairman—continued.

you estimated the other day, (22 or 23 per cent.) for the cost of administration would not sell for such a sum as, re-invested at 2½ per cent., would bring in an equal amount?—No, I do not think so. Looking at the Crown property, and the outlying farms, I know of no farm that I think could be sold at the present moment to pay a fair interest; but at the same time I do not lose a chance of selling bits of the property where I can get a good price for it. For instance, at Eltham in Kent, at this moment I am hoping to make a very fair sale of a few acres; as accommodation land for a neighbouring landowner.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

1936. Have you ever as Commissioner requested Mr. Clutton to go into the matter, and see whether any general system of sale and purchase could be inaugurated?—I cannot say that I have ever instructed Mr. Clutton. I have on many occasions talked the matter over with him, especially as to different farms.

1937. Has he given you any advice for or against such a system?—He has said he would sell if he saw an opportunity at a fair price, with a view to fair interest.

1938. But selling with a view to amalgamate and concentrate the property?—That has been Mr. Clutton's policy, I believe, under my predecessor, Mr. Gore, for many years. During the last few years he has not seen an opportunity to do it. For instance, there is an outlying farm in Suffolk we were desirous of selling if it could be sold, but we did not see our way. It happens to be extremely cold bad clay land, and I do not think anybody would give you anything for it.

Chairman.

1939. But you have not tested it really by an auction?—No.

1940. Then you cannot tell what people will buy, can you?—No.

Mr. Jackson.

1941. I suppose you have seen the opinion of other people who have tested the matter by auction?—I have; and I have talked to a good many people about it. If you put it up to auction there is very considerable expense. I do not know what the Treasury would say to me if I came to them with a large bill for putting all these farms up to auction.

1942. Has your view been that nobody lately would put land up to sell it by forced auction unless compelled to do it?—Certainly.

1943. But you have no objection to the principle of it?—None whatever. I should have been very glad indeed if during my Commissionership I could have concentrated the Crown property and continued more than I have done the policy which was pursued some years ago.

1944. I have not been able to give you notice, but I would ask this question. I wanted if I could to have got an answer from you to clear up the question about those large payments made in 1854, showing that the larger payment in that year was made from accumulated balances?—No, the larger payment was on account of the disafforesting of Hainault and Whichwood Forest.

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1945. Then

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[Continued]

Mr. Jackson—continued.

1945. Then I will put this question; I do not know whether you can answer it. In the accounts (I think it is for the year 1854) there is a very large sum paid over to the Exchequer?—Yes, and that was owing chiefly to the large large sum received for the sale of timber, &c. at Hainault. That is what increased it so largely that year.

1946. But in one year the payment was actually larger than the total amount of receipts for the one year, that is in 1854?—The only way

Mr. Jackson—continued.

that I can account for it is that there was an accumulated balance from the year before.

1947. There was a balance of 196,000 *l.* over the year before?—Yes.

1948. I wanted to get it from you so that it might be put upon the Notes, because several questions were asked as to how it was that the payment in that particular year was so large that the payment was in excess of the total amount which had been received?—That was the case.

1949. It was paid from the accumulated balance of the previous year?—Yes, that is

Mr. WARNER CHARLES HIGGINS, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

1950. WHAT is the exact title of your office?—Receiver General.

1951. You are the Receiver General?—Yes.

1952. Your office is in the building where the rest of the work of the Woods and Forests is transacted?—It is.

1953. Perhaps you had better state generally without my asking you questions, the mode in which you keep your accounts, both for receipts and for expenditure?—The accounts are kept by the book-keeper, not by me as Receiver General.

1954. I do not suppose you do the clerk's work, but I want to know on what system you regulate the receipt which comes to you of a quarter of a million of money?—Every day I enter all receipts in what I may call a cash-book, or day-book.

1955. Then you do keep a book?—I do keep that book.

1956. Now I want you just to trace the money paid into your account. Just give us its history?—When payments are made to me they are entered immediately in a day-book (a cash-book), and the money collected by me during the day is paid by me to clerks of the Bank of England, who attend to receive it every afternoon.

1957. Let us first take your own receipt. You are the receiver for Middlesex?—Yes.

1958. And all rents that are paid in respect of Crown property, either in London or Middlesex are paid by the tenants direct to you?—Direct to me.

1959. Do you hold an audit?—No.

1960. I suppose you send a circular?—A circular is sent out after the rents become due, telling the people to come and pay their rents at my office.

1961. They attend at your office and pay the rents, and then daily whatever money you receive is paid to the Bank of England?—Yes. I do not mean to say, but that after 3 o'clock there may be some, there may be a few pounds kept over from day to day; but, as a rule, all money that I receive for rents is paid by me direct to the clerks of the Bank of England, who call daily at my office.

1962. Do the clerks of the Bank of England call for it?—Yes.

Chairman—continued.

1963. You have no banking account of your own as Receiver General?—No, not at a private bank.

1964. All money received by you is paid to the Bank of England?—Paid direct to the Bank of England.

1965. When the other receivers receive money how is that paid?—Generally by cheque sent me by Mr. Gore or Mr. Clutton. Some Mr. Clutton pays direct into the Bank of England and I am advised by him the following day he has paid so much to the account of the Commissioners into the Bank of England.

1966. The account is the account of the Commissioners, not the account of the Receiver General?—The account of the Commissioners certainly.

1967. Then Mr. Clutton can either pay money to you as Receiver General, or to the account of the Commissioners at the Bank of England?—Certainly.

1968. Do you think it would be very desirable for him to adopt either the one plan or the other?—Yes, I think it would.

1969. What is the advantage of his paying in two different modes?—None that I know of.

1970. Does he pay in lump sums, or in specific receipts of rent?—Lump sums, varying from 500 *l.* usually, upwards.

1971. I do not mean Mr. Clutton alone, I mean the other receiver as well. Do the other receivers send to you any account, except the payment they are going to make?—None.

1972. They simply advise you, "We have paid 200 *l.*, 500 *l.*, or 1,000 *l.*"?—Just so.

1973. Are their accounts checked in your office?—No, not in my office.

1974. Your function is simply receiving the money?—Just so.

1975. And it does not fall within your duty to ask when they received the money which they pay over to you?—Certainly not.

1976. Are there any payments drawn upon your account except by the Commissioners?—I mean do the Commissioners draw upon your account?—The Commissioners authorise certain sums to be drawn from the account, but I do not draw the cheques, either I or my assistant.

1977. What are the cheques for; are they for expenditure in the shape of repair?—Miscellaneous payments.

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Mr. HIGGINS.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

ments of every description; contributions and anything in fact.

78. Can you give us any idea of the annual amount that is paid in that mode by the Commissioners?—No, I cannot.

79. You cannot give us any idea of the number of entries or cheques?—In the course of the year?

80. Yes?—I should think perhaps, on an average 20 a month, not more, I should think.

81. How often is your account audited?—Once a year.

82. Is that audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General?—It is examined in the Office of Woods and then sent to the Auditor General for audit.

83. Is there an audit in the Office of Woods?—An examination of the accounts, yes.

84. Is it in the nature of an audit?—No, strictly, I think.

85. Who conducts it?—The clerks in Colonel Scott's and Mr. Culley's departments. They examine the accounts prior to their being sent to the Auditor General.

86. That is not what we should call an independent audit?—No.

87. There is no official attached to the Woods and Forests who audits the accounts for Woods and Forests?—No, not any official attached to the office.

88. Simply the clerks examine them?—The accounts then go to audit.

89. They go to the Comptroller and Auditor General?—Yes.

90. That is the year after, is it not?—Oh, the accounts for the year ending 31st March are sent immediately, I imagine.

91. They are in audit now, then?—They are in audit now, or will be in the course of a short time.

92. You never see the bank-books of the receivers, do you?—Never; nor the bank-books of the Commissioners.

93. Have you much trouble in the collection of the Middlesex and London rents?—No, not say that I have.

94. People pay pretty punctually on being called to, do they?—Very punctually, as far as there are a few exceptions, but as a rule the rents are paid very punctually.

95. And beyond the expense of your own office there is no outlay incurred in the receipt of money?—Not a shilling.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

96. With respect to your own receivership, as to the salaries, your own office is in the Office of Woods?—In the office buildings.

97. Your office forms part of the Department and Office of Woods?—Clearly.

98. Are your services exclusively devoted to the work of the office?—Entirely.

99. That is, you receive, you collect, in the whole of the income from the London and Middlesex property, and you receive and transmit (purely mechanical transmission, as I understand it) all money which is forwarded?—I am the channel by which ultimately it is sent to the Bank of England.

103.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

2000. You are purely a mechanical channel?—Purely.

2001. You exercise no control?—No; not any at all.

2002. With reference to your own individual duty as collector and receiver of the London and Middlesex properties, you have to see that the income is properly collected, and if it is not paid really you enforce payment?—Yes.

2003. I understand you to tell the Chairman that the collection of the London income does not involve any serious difficulty or trouble?—Oh, no.

2004. Have you to put matters often into the hands of the solicitor?—Very seldom indeed.

2005. The nature of the income of the property is such that it is ground-rents principally, is it not?—Principally ground-rents, not entirely.

2006. No rack-rents?—Oh, yes; there are rack-rents.

2007. A comparatively small amount?—A very small number.

2008. I see you say you draw all the cheques which the Commissioners authorise to be drawn?—I do, or my assistant.

2009. If either of the Commissioners sends an authority you act upon it?—I act upon it.

2010. There again you exercise no control?—No control at all. I merely draw for what I am directed to draw.

2011. Is the authority sent by word of mouth?—No, in writing; under the signature.

2012. You only act upon written authority?—Under signature by one of the Commissioners.

2013. With reference to the money collected outside London and Middlesex, throughout the whole of the kingdom, I believe you have said that you never see the bank books of the receivers?—That is so.

2014. And could not therefore say anything (not seeing them), about them?—No.

2015. You simply pay in?—That is it.

2016. Or rather you do not pay in, as I understand, because the bank clerks collect it?—Yes, they collect it; but I call that paying it in.

2017. With reference to the yearly accounts, you say that they are examined. Who makes out the accounts in the department?—The general account of the Commissioners of Woods?

2018. Yes?—The book-keeper. He is directed by the Treasury to do so.

2019. Let me understand. Is the book-keeper a part of your establishment?—He is in the office.

2020. In your office?—Not in my office; in the Office of Woods.

2021. He is not one of your servants?—No.

2022. You have nothing to do with his duties?—No, nothing at all.

2023. I understood you to tell the Chairman that the accounts are examined yearly by the Commissioners' clerks?—Yes, prior to their transmission to audit.

2024. I take it you have nothing to do with that?—No; nothing whatever.

2025. So that you only speak of that from general information; and as to the Exchequer and Audit Department; perhaps here again you

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Mr. HIGGINS.

[Continued]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

do not know anything of the accounts being transmitted to the Exchequer and Audit Department?—No; it is no part of my duty.

Chairman.

2026. Can you just tell us what is the entire amount of what you receive personally as receiver for Middlesex?—Yes.

2027. What did you receive last year; the year ending 1888?—If you would not mind taking 1888-89, it is 250,388 *l*.

2028. Is that the net or the gross?—The gross.

2029. The gross 250,000 *l*. in round figures; then you really received one half of the receipt?—Yes.

2030. Taking it in round figures at half a million, you receive about half of that?—Yes.

2031. That is paid to you direct, and you pay it direct to the clerks of the Bank of England. Now the rest of the income, as I understand, goes through these stages: first, the tenant pays it to the local receiver, Mr. Clutton's (or Mr. Gore's) representative?—Yes.

2032. Then it is paid to the private account, in the country, of the receiver?—Yes.

Mr. Jackson.

2033. Is that so?—I believe so.

2034. Do you know?—I cannot be sure.

Chairman.

2035. Then having been paid to the local banking account, it is then paid, or certain portions of it are paid to the private Crown account of the receiver?—Yes.

2036. Then he draws a cheque upon that account, and sends that cheque to you?—Yes.

2037. Then you pay that into the Bank of England?—Quite so.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

2038. I am not quite sure whether I made it quite clear as to your own receivership. You receive 250,000 *l*. a year?—Yes.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

2039. You keep the accounts of that receipt?—Yes, clearly; nobody else.

2040. Entirely?—Entirely, in my own office.

2041. That account you render to the Commissioners?—Oh, yes.

2042. That is subjected, as I understand, to an examination in the office of Woods by the Commissioners' staff?—Clearly; certainly.

2043. Then of course you have all the materials; you have the rent-books and information as to all the property?—Yes.

2044. And the half-yearly, or annual quarterly, or whatever payments they are, that is your business?—Quite so.

2045. You are the responsible collector?—Quite so.

2046. But you make up your accounts through your own staff in the office, and annually render them to the Commissioners?—Yes.

2047. They are subjected to an examination by the Commissioners themselves or their staff?—Yes.

2048. The book-keeper to whom you refer just now has nothing to do with it; you do it yourself?—He has nothing whatever to do with that.

2049. Your account is rendered to the Commissioners, and is incorporated in their general account of course?—Yes.

2050. Then after being subjected to examination by the office itself it is sent on to the Audit Office?—Yes.

2051. Do I understand you to say that for the financial year ending 31st of March of each year, your accounts are rendered to that time?—Yes.

2052. And immediately on being rendered to the Commissioners they are examined in the office, are then transmitted to the Audit Department?—Yes.

2053. And are audited forthwith?—Audited forthwith, as near as possible.

2054. Are you quite clear about that?—There may be some little delay in the office; but two or three months they are audited.

Mr. EDWARD BURROUGH, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

2055. ARE you the book-keeper in the office of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests?—I am.

2056. How many years have you held that office?—Since 1870.

2057. You have held it 19 years?—Nineteen years.

2058. Were you in the office before then?—I was.

2059. In fact you have been trained up in the office?—Precisely so.

2060. Will you tell us what is the work of your own department?—I have to prepare the whole of the accounts of the department for audit for and Parliament. I have to keep four books; a cash abstract book, a sub-accountant's abstract book, a journal, and a ledger.

2061. Do the receivers render you any

Chairman—continued.

accounts?—The monthly accounts of the receipts are rendered to the Commissioners and are examined in the Commissioners' department in my department. They are sent down to me when examined, and I look through them to see that every thing has been carried in the proper head of account on both sides. I enter them in my books, and eventually transmit them to audit when the month's accounts are complete.

2062. They are not entered in your books until they have been through the Commissioners' department?—No.

2063. What officer examines them there?—The officers appointed by the chiefs of the departments.

2064. Who is the officer; tell me who it is?—There are different men in each department.

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Mr. BURROUGH.

[Continued.]

Chairman--continued.

here are, I suppose, eight or ten men engaged more or less in the examination of the accounts in the departments.

2065. Is there a head man?—The chief clerks, should presume, would be considered the head men. They are responsible for the examination.

2066. They make no entries whatever?—They make no entries whatever.

2067. They simply go through these accounts?—They simply go through the accounts and examine them, raising queries where necessary, seeing that the vouchers are all complete, that the Treasury authorities and so on are all sufficient; and then, when the examination is thoroughly completed, the accounts are sent down to me to pass through the books, and finally sent on to audit.

2068. Then your work is purely mechanical?—No; because I have to see that everything is carried through to the proper heads.

2069. But you have no power to disallow any item?—No, I cannot disallow.

2070. Whatever is passed upstairs you enter and it is done with?—I enter it and it is done with so far as that is concerned.

2071. Do you see the vouchers?—I see that there are vouchers; I see that the vouchers which purport to be with the accounts are there. The examination of the vouchers is complete when they reach me.

2072. That is simply the vouchers for the payments?—Yes.

2073. Have you any mode of checking the date of the receipt by the receivers of the money?—None at all, except the rentals which they render at the end of the year.

2074. But the monthly accounts do not disclose when they receive the rents from the tenants?—No.

2075. They simply say, in a certain month we had a certain sum of money in our hands?—We received so much from the tenants.

2076. We received so much and we have one certain things with it?—Just so.

2077. Do you in any way enter or check the receiver General's books; are they kept by you?—Mr. Higgins enters his receipts in a day book, and I receive from the Bank of England the bank pass-books. I enter from the bank pass-books, with the assistance of the description of the receipt which I find in the receiver's day book.

2078. In fact you are, so to speak, the ledger clerk for his day book?—Well, it goes through my books. I carry it in detail through my books.

2079. Do your books go to the Comptroller and Auditor General?—Yes; I send monthly accounts to the Comptroller and Auditor General. The last two years he has not actually seen the books, because I have given him a complete abstract of the whole accounts for each month, that he has got the whole of the details before him, and does not require to see the books themselves.

2080. Do the books go from your department, what you call the "upstairs" department, to 0.103.

Chairman--continued.

the Comptroller and Auditor General?—The books are kept in my department entirely.

2081. And does he receive nothing but what you send to him?—Nothing, except it may be an authority or two. Now and then a few authorities may go from the departments direct.

2082. Who sends him the pass-books of the receivers?—The Auditor General calls for them when he considers it advisable to do so.

2083. They are not sent unless he asks for them?—They are not sent unless the auditor calls for them.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

2084. I do not quite understand about the receipts; you see the vouchers for all payments?—I receive the vouchers for all the payments, but I do not examine the vouchers connected with the sub-accounts in detail. I examine the vouchers connected with the cash payments which are made in the office through Mr. Higgins.

2085. I am taking the country receivers' accounts?—I do not examine the detailed vouchers connected with their monthly accounts.

2086. In making out the accounts it is your duty as bookkeeper, I suppose, to assign in the account of each receiver, and to credit the account with all the receipts?—Yes.

2087. By the receiver?—By the receiver. You mean the payments on account of the sub-accountants to the receiver. I take note of those in the receivers' accounts.

2088. I want to follow the rents received, by Mr. Gore, for instance. The amounts received by Mr. Gore are paid in, as you are aware, to a local banking account, and from that local banking account they are transmitted in lump sums to Mr. Higgins?—So far as I know there is no intermediate account between the tenants' money and Mr. Gore's banking account; and from there it is paid in to Mr. Higgins.

2089. But the pass book of the country receiver (I am not talking of the London account, because you have all the materials there in the office) only shows the receipts in the form of sums of 1,000 £. and 1,500 £. forwarded to Mr. Higgins?—Just so.

2090. How do you get at the statement of the receipts of the receivers and allocate them to the particular tenant or source from which they come?—By the rental which is rendered every year on the 31st March. Each receiver is put in charge of a rental, and upon that rental he has to collect certain rents; he is responsible for the collection of those rents; and as soon as the period to which the rental relates is closed he completes his rental, sends it into the office, and there it is examined to see that everything he is charged with is brought into the rental.

2091. That is what I want to know; how is it checked by the bare pass-book?—It is not checked by the bank pass-book, except as a matter of balances at the end of the year. He does not pay any precise amount when it is received in the country, because he has a large expenditure going out.

2092. The way I understand you arrive at the receipt side is this: the rent account is rendered

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Mr. BURROUGH.

[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

rendered by the receiver for the half-year?—For the year.

2093. For the year or the half-year; and he debits himself with the amount received from each tenant upon each item of the account?—Yes.

Mr. Jackson.

2094. Do the separate items appear in the account?—No, it only appears in the account in lump sums.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

2095. In your account?—In the sub-accountant's account.

2096. As I understand it, the way in which the receiver's rental account is tested is this: he at the end of the year furnishes a rent account, showing each individual item of rent for the collection of which he is responsible?—Yes, that is so.

2097. He furnishes the pass-book of the account which is kept by him in the country?—I do not say that.

2098. I want to find out how the account is managed?—That is sent up to audit when they require it.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

2099. He has sent up to the central office his rent account with all the items, showing what rent he has received?—Just so; the annual rental.

2100. Debiting himself with the amounts received?—Yes.

2101. As I understand the way in which you get at and check the account is, that he by his pass-book (which he has also sent up) shows that he has paid in lump sums certain sums during that half-year to the credit of the Receiver General to the Bank of England in London. He does that, no doubt?—Through his pass-book he no doubt remits certain moneys to us.

2102. He credits himself with those remittances?—Yes.

2103. Then he shows by the pass-book the balance at the end of the half-year which he has in hand; and that ought to balance the account with which he has debited himself, and the rent is it not so?—It no doubt ought to do so.

2104. Who does it; is it done?—I do not examine; I must refer you to the gentlemen who examine the accounts.

2105. You say that the examination takes place upstairs?—Of the sub-accounts.

Mr. GEORGE CULLEY, called in; and further Examined.

Sir William Harcourt.

2106. IN the receipts and outgoings (I will take, for instance, a district like the New Forest) there are certain receipts for rent, wood, and so forth, and there are certain payments out for repairs, building cottages, and so on, or whatever has to be done. When those payments out are made (the outgoings), who pays them; are they paid by the deputy surveyor on the spot out of the rents and other receipts that he has, or are the rents and receipts paid into your office, and then cheques given for the outgoings; I want to know what the practice is?—The deputy surveyor sends me in a monthly account; he also sends me a monthly estimate; we allow him to keep a sufficient balance to meet out of his own account the charges that are estimated for. If those estimates are approved he keeps a sufficient balance, or what we think will be a sufficient balance. Occasionally it happens that that balance is not sufficient; then I send him money enough to meet his requirements.

2107. But the general practice is that the outgoings (the expenditure) is paid out of the balance of the accruing rents?—Yes, that is so.

2108. So that what is paid in to your office is the balance remaining of income over expenditure?—Yes, that is so.

Mr. Heneage.

2109. But who is this "deputy surveyor;" you have used a new term now?—No; I beg

Mr. Heneage—continued.

your pardon, it is the term that is always used. The deputy surveyor is the receiver. He receives the money.

2110. He is a deputy receiver?—He is the receiver; he is not a "deputy receiver," but a deputy surveyor, because I am supposed to be the surveyor.

2111. Does he keep a separate account altogether apart from Mr. Clutton?—Certainly; an account entirely belonging to the New Forest, the woods under his charge; he has no connection whatever with Mr. Clutton.

Sir William Harcourt.

2112. That is so with reference to the Woods Accounts, which in this book appear as separate accounts, debtor and creditor; that is a separate receivership?—Quite a separate receivership.

Chairman.

2113. But Mr. Clutton gets a commission upon the net amount that is paid, does not he?—I am not speaking now of Mr. Clutton, but of the deputy surveyor of the New Forest.

2114. I mean the deputy surveyor of the New Forest; to whom does the deputy surveyor of the New Forest pay his balances?—Directly to the Office of Woods.

2115. They do not come through Mr. Clutton?—No, not at all. He is an entirely independent officer.

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Mr. FREDERICK HELLARD, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

2116. WHAT is your department?—I am principal Clerk to Colonel Kingseote.

2117. Do you examine the accounts of the receivers?—They are examined under my instructions.

2118. Now, will you just tell the Committee what the process of examination is, and the vouchers that you require?—A copy of one monthly account was put in as a specimen; from that you will see that the Crown rents received during the month are entered in a lump sum. The other items of receipt are entered in detail. We get no particulars of the precise amounts of the Crown rents that are paid until the close of the year, unless they are asked for. At the close of the year the detailed rental is rendered, showing the amounts received from every tenant during the year; the other receipts are vouched by vouchers sent in with the monthly accounts.

2119. Do those accounts at the end of the year show the date of the receipt?—No, they do not.

2120. Then the date of the payment from the tenant to the receiver never comes before you?—No, it would not unless inquiry was made.

2121. So long as the rent is paid between the 1st March and the 29th September, if those be the two half-yearly days, you have no other date to put before you?—No, except that we have a check that Sir Nigel has mentioned. We know by experience the amount, approximately, that should be remitted each month. We know, of course, from time to time, whether the rents are varying; whether they are increasing or diminishing, and from that we are able to form a very fairly accurate general estimate of the amount we should receive each month.

2122. When they send you this monthly account, what do they send with it in the shape of vouchers?—As regards the Crown rents, nothing.

2123. Do they send their pass-books then?—They are available when called for.

2124. They do not send them unless they are asked for them?—They do not send them unless they are asked for them.

Mr. Jackson.

2125. Would there be any difficulty or any objection to supplying you in that monthly account with the date and the amount of the separate items which had been received by the receiver?—It could be done, of course, but it would mean the checking the rental 12 times a year instead of once practically.

2126. How would it mean checking the rental 12 times a year?—Because, of course, the rents are paid by instalments. I mean to say it very often happens that the tenant does not pay the full half-year's rent when due, especially in the winter months. I am talking now, of course, of agricultural rents more particularly.

Chairman.

2127. Are there any regular audits held?—Yes, by the receivers.

0.103.

Chairman—continued.

2128. Do you remember what the dates are?—They may vary slightly from year to year.

2129. Does the Crown allow two or three months?—The October rents would be collected about from the latter part of December to the beginning of February, perhaps.

2130. And the March rents would be collected when?—There would be perhaps a little longer interval.

2131. In June?—They would perhaps be collected in June, at the end of June or the beginning of July. Sometimes the March rents would depend somewhat upon the season. The tenants depend somewhat, perhaps, upon the harvest to pay the rent.

Mr. Heneage.

2132. And I suppose some of them are May-day tenancies and not Lady-day tenancies?—No; Michaelmas or Lady-day tenancies.

Sir William Harcourt.

2133. Are you familiar with the actual process of collection in the different parts of the country: does Mr. Clutton send down somebody of his own, or are there local persons who collect and pay to him?—No; as a general rule he either attends himself or sends one of his assistants to hold the audit.

2134. Supposing that there are a number of small sums of money which are not paid by cheque, but are paid in cash, it is necessary, of course, that he should pay those into some bank or other?—Yes.

2135. That could not be sent direct to the Bank of England, I presume; they must go into some banking account?—Mr. Clutton is responsible for the money. We do not therefore, of course, inquire precisely how he deals with it; but, as a matter of practice, I believe his clerks or himself, as the case may be, bring the money back to London with them and pay it into Mr. Clutton's Crown Account. There is no local bank.

2136. There is no local bank?—Not that I know of.

Chairman.

2137. Then the amount is paid in this way: I see to you "300L," "300L," "800L."?—Sir Nigel handed in a statement of the remittances for 1886-87 and 1887-88, showing the dates when they were paid in. I think in the year 1886-87 there were 43 occasions, and in the other year I think there were 62 occasions, when the receiver remitted money to the Office of Woods. This is a copy of the statement.

2138. These pass-books you never show unless you are asked for them?—Unless asked for them.

2139. Then how can you examine the accounts without them?—The accounts are not examined, of course, in such minute detail as your questions have suggested, except annually.

2140. Was it ever brought to the knowledge of your department that the Comptroller and Auditor General had reported to the Committee

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Mr. HELLARD.

[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

of Public Accounts, and that the Committee of Public Accounts had reported to the House of Commons, as to the mode in which these banking accounts were kept?—I think there is a little misapprehension as to that.

2141. I should like to get the actual fact clear?—I think the facts are these: that the Comptroller and Auditor General, in his Report to Parliament on our accounts for 1885–86, called attention to the fact that four out of the 17 receivers received interest (some small amount), and he stated that he inferred from that that some of the remaining 13 might do the same. It was not the case; and the Committee of Public Accounts took evidence on the point; but they did not, I suppose, think it necessary to say anything about it. Their Report to Parliament is silent upon the subject. They simply mention the point that the receivers had not been in the practice of keeping separate accounts, but that it was understood they would do so in the future; and that was done.

2142. Your point is, no doubt, correct; but was not there another point; that is, that these receivers paid this money into their own private accounts, and that it was intermixed with their own private moneys at the bank?—That is some years previously.

2143. That is what I am drawing your attention to?—Upon the auditors calling attention to that fact, I believe, the Treasury directions were taken upon the point, and it was settled that they should keep separate accounts of the Crown moneys in future, and they did so; but previously to that time, no doubt, the policy had been to rest upon the security which the receivers gave.

2144. The receiver was allowed to receive the money before, pay it into his own private account, and pay over to you at certain stated times?—That was prior to 1885.

2145. Now the rule is, that he is not to pay it into his own private account but into a separate account; and now what I want to ask you is, how do you check it, so as to see that that rule is carried out?—I do not see the money paid by the tenants. I do not see how I could check it. I must rely upon Mr. Clutton to carry that out.

2146. There are counterfoils of receipts, are there not?—I am not aware; I do not see them, at all events.

2147. Then, practically, there is no check of the receipt, except the monthly account that you have told us of and the annual rental?—No; the annual rental is the great check.

2148. That is not the point on which we are asking for information. Assuming the receiver pays to your account 20,000 £, 35,000 £, or 40,000 £; at the end of the year you satisfy yourself that you have got the 40,000 £?—That we have got all that he ought to have paid.

2149. What we want to get at is, how do you satisfy yourself, that like Mr. Higgins, the moment, on the day, he receives the money, that that day he pays it over to you?—We do not do that, undoubtedly; not from day to day.

2150. There is no check whatever as to the receipt, evidently?—I do not think I should say that.

Chairman—continued.

2151. I should be very happy if you can give any explanation to the contrary, because I want you, candidly, that that is the effect you have produced on my mind; that there is no check to the date of the receipt. If you can explain that I shall be only too happy to have it right?—I have pointed out that that is quite so.

Sir William Harcourt.

2152. I do not understand that the receivers are required to pay over on the day they receive it.—They are not.

2153. Of course they could not do so possibly; that may be done in London, where the Bank of England is there to receive it, but it cannot be done in the country, where the Bank of England keep no branches. But what I understand is that what you require of the receivers is that they shall pay over the receipt every month; is that the condition put upon them?—I had better read the section of the Act of Parliament, because it is really governing that. It is Section 84 of the Act of 10 Geo. 4, and it is this: "And be it further enacted that every receiver appointed, or to be appointed, aforesaid, shall at the end of every month (unless otherwise directed by the said Commissioners for the time being of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues) transmit all moneys received by him during the month to the said Commissioners; and every such receiver shall at any time have received or got into his hands any sum of money belonging to the Crown exceeding the sum of Five hundred pounds, unless he shall have previously received instructions to the contrary from the Commissioners for the time being of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, forthwith transmit the same to the said Commissioners; and in case any receiver shall have so got into his hands any sum exceeding the sum of Five hundred pounds and shall not forthwith transmit the same to the said Commissioners, or apply or dispose of the same in such other manner as he shall have been directed to do by the said Commissioners, he shall be charged and chargeable with interest for the same such sum after such rate, not exceeding the rate of Ten pounds for every One hundred pounds by the year, as the said Commissioners for the time being shall in that behalf appoint, from the day or time, days or times, at which it shall have been so received, until it shall be transmitted to him to the said Commissioners, or paid over to him in the manner by them directed."

Chairman.

2154. My point is, how do you test that that section is complied with?—We only do so, I think, in that general way I have described. We know the amount, dealing with Mr. Clutton, how much he has to collect; we know, by experience, the amount that he should remit monthly; those remittances were to fall off we should make a close examination as to the receipt for it.

2155. Beyond that theoretical test, there is no practical test, you see; except the word of the receiver himself (and, of course, that is evidence which is never accepted in an audit), there is

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Mr. HELLARD.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

whatever that the section is complied with? what may be.

Mr. Heneage.

156. I suppose Mr. Clutton, or whoever the driver may be, keeps a day cash-book, does he of all receipts and payments?—I suppose so; I have no information as to that.

157. Would there be any difficulty in having copy of the items in that cash-book sent up to the office once a fortnight or once a month, giving the dates of receipts and dates of payment?—I presume there would be no difficulty, it would lead to a large amount of extra work.

158. What extra work?—The necessary clerical work of examination.

159. The clerical work?—All these items would have to be checked.

Chairman.

160. What do you mean by "all these items would have to be checked;" we will say that John Jones has paid the Crown, in the month of June, 200 l. for rent; what extra work would there be, if you put in the margin "23rd June, received from Mr. John Jones, 200 l."?—There would be no extra work if it were confined to

Mr. Jackson.

161. I would like to ask you just one question on the check; as I understand, although I do not know from month to month the total amounts which have been received by the various (say by Mr. Clutton), at the end of the year you do check the amount by the amount which is in charge to him for the various rentals of the property under his care?—Certainly.

162. Therefore, at the end of the year, you are in a position to ascertain that the amount which is in charge to him either has been received and paid over to you, or, that the amount has been paid over to you, plus the amount which is in charge (and which I suppose you verify), is correct?—That is so.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

163. At the end of each financial year you close this banking account, and the amounts received, which are credited to Mr. Clutton, say, for the whole year; you take his statement of rents for which he is accountable, and with the balance standing at the end of the year you are able to check his statement to this extent, that he charges himself with a certain amount of rents in the statement of rents received; you find in the banking account that he has remitted the balance that makes up the total correct?—Certainly.

164. With reference to that, that account you are able to check so far?—You will bear in mind that the account is also audited by the Auditor General, and he has never called attention to any deficiency that I am aware of yet.

165. Then, of course, as any ordinary careful person of business would do, where there are large amounts in the statement of the rent account, you take care to see that those are really not collected; I suppose you do that?—I do not know.

103.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

quite how you can do that, unless you go round to every tenant, and ask him how much he still owes.

2166. May I ask whether the balances of the arrears are very large in the case of your rentals?—They are stated in the aggregate in the Reports to Parliament.

2167. Now, if you will just follow me with this banking account for a moment, I think the account itself explains a good deal. We will take the month of March. On the 26th March there is a bank balance struck, they draw a line, there is 4,304 l. to the credit of Mr. Clutton, and 3,338 l. which has been remitted or paid by him; so that there is a balance generally in this account of about 1,000 l. to 1,200 l., or 1,400 l.?—No; I think you will find that on some occasions it has been overdrawn. On one occasion I think it was overdrawn slightly.

2168. Take the next; 4,756 l. against 3,976 l. There is generally an ample balance, but it is no advantage to Mr. Clutton, because it is the Crown account?—Not a penny. And we could call upon the bankers to hold that at our disposal at any moment.

2169. With reference to this monthly account (I do not know whether you have it), I see on the credit side here, on the 27th March, a cheque paid in, 164 l. 10 s., and then cash, 111 l. 15 s.; have you got that side of the account?—No; but then you will find on the 28th he remitted 600 l.

2170. That is exactly so?—That left him on the 28th with a balance in hand of 779 l., striking a balance on the same date; but you must bear in mind that the receipt that appears there on the 28th he probably would not have known of at the date when he drew his cheque for the 600 l. It would only be cleared that evening.

2171. There is a payment on the 29th of 500 l. by another of the Commissioners of Works, then certain items, Gregson, Macfarlane?—Gregson and Macfarlane are both bailiffs for farms in hand. Those are both payments to bailiffs.

2172. In the case of Mr. Higgins his banking account would appear in this way; every payment goes straight in, and any payment out is made by the Commissioners?—Yes, it would appear upon the Commissioners of Woods' Accounts.

2173. The other Receivers have a banking account, and without any express authority they draw at their discretion, do they not?—They make payments within the authority that has been given them.

2174. That is a general authority, is it not?—No, it would be specific in this way. For instance, when a farmhouse is authorised to be built, authority would be given to spend a certain sum (a sum which has been settled as the amount to be expended); then within that sum they would draw; the one authority would cover the several payments. The payments might not have been made in one lump sum, but in several sums. The authority is general as to a particular work, or it might be done in other ways.

Mr. Jackson.

2175. Supposing you wanted to spend 500 l. on building a farmhouse, the first thing you would

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Mr. HELLARD.

[Conti

Mr. Jackson—continued.

would have to do would be to get the sanction of the Treasury?—Certainly.

2176. Then, having got the sanction of the Treasury, you are at liberty to draw up to 500 l. in one sum or in many?—Certainly; and Mr. Clutton would be authorised to draw then up to the limit the Treasury had sanctioned.

Mr. Heneage.

2177. We have had several questions about interest, and the possibility of the receiver receiving interest. Is not the banking account of the Crown carried on on the London principle of not giving any interest for balances in hand, and not charging any commission for cheques?—That is so, I believe.

2178. Therefore, there is no interest paid to anybody, and could be none?—I cannot see how any interest could be paid.

2179. Therefore, the only question left is

Mr. Heneage—continued.

really whether you know the dates when payments are made; there could be no question of interest?—I should say there is no question of interest.

2180. It is merely a question of book-keeping.—Merely a question of the actual dates.

Chairman.

2181. Was there any correspondence between your Department and the Treasury about the Report of the Auditor General?—I think there would have been some.

2182. I should like that put in?—I will care to have it looked up.

2183. I should like to have the whole correspondence between the Treasury and the Woods and Forests in reference to the banking accounts referred to in the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report put in; you bring that?—Yes.

Mr. THOMAS WILLIAM GORST, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

2184. You are, I believe, the Solicitor to the Woods and Forests?—I am.

2185. You are remunerated by a salary of 1,500 l. a year; and you have an allowance made for what you pay to your clerks, of another 1,270 l.?—I daresay that is probably about the amount now.

2186. I am reading from the Blue Book?—Yes, I have an allowance. It is not a fixed sum of 1,270 l.

2187. You are not paid any law bills whatever?—No.

2188. Do you charge any legal expenses to the tenants or persons who negotiate with the Crown?—I do not. There are certain charges for leases, and for documents drawn.

2189. Supposing a lease is granted by the Commissioners, just tell us what is charged to the lessees; is any charge made to the lessee?—Yes; a charge is made to the lessee. It is made on a scale in the office, and it is fixed before it comes to me, or before I hear of it. The arrangement is made with the tenant, and it includes a charge of so much for drawing the lease.

2190. Then that is carried to the general revenue account of the Woods and Forests?—That is paid to the Receiver General, and, I suppose, is carried to the general revenue account of the Woods and Forests.

2191. I mean it is not paid to you?—It is not paid to me.

2192. You have no charges whatever?—I receive nothing whatever.

2193. You receive nothing but your salary?—Nothing.

2194. And whatever is charged to a lessee is paid to the Receiver General?—Yes.

2195. You have to employ agents, I see, in various parts of England, and also in Ireland?—Ireland I have nothing to do with.

2196. Is there a separate local staff for Ireland?—Yes, and for Scotland too.

2197. Are your forms printed, your agree-

Chairman—continued.

ments and leases?—A good number are. Every year we can get printed, we do.

Sir William Harcourt.

2198. Might I ask you upon that, if you let a cottage, is that let upon a printed agreement as would be ordinarily done on an estate?—I do not, at this present moment, remember such a case as the letting of a cottage.

2199. You do not remember what sort of charge would be made upon that?—No.

Chairman.

2200. Is it an *ad valorem* charge upon rental?—Yes, it is an *ad valorem* charge upon rental.

2201. But I suppose you know what the scale is; we should like to know what the *ad valorem* scale is?—I have not got it with me; I can bring it you in the morning.

2202. We were asking the Commissioners the other day as to their power to make grants for charitable purposes, or for schools; will you tell us what you consider to be the legal limits of the Commissioners with reference either to the grants of land or grants of money?—That is a point upon which the Commissioners have been advised by the Law Officers very recently; I think, within this last year or two.

2203. We want to have it from you, Sir, as you are the legal adviser of the Commissioners; should they adopt the advice of the Law Officers?

2204. Will you tell us what the Law Officers advised?—I can give it you to-morrow.

2205. The Commissioners refer us to you, Sir, as you are the legal adviser; we want to know how the Law Officers have construed the power of 10 Geo. 4, and what the rule now?—I believe I can give it you accurately now; but unless you would like it now I prefer to give it you on the next occasion, as I could give it you perfectly accurately then.

2206. The point which one learned M

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Mr. GOEST.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

the Committee raised was, as to whether you had any power to make any grant in money at all, and as to whether your power to grant land was not limited to certain purposes mentioned in the Act, which we were not able to ascertain from the Commissioners that they regarded as confining themselves within those limits; so we really want to know authoritatively?—The legal view of the department is that grants of sites for churches and chapels and schools is limited by the Act to grants for churches, chapels, and schools connected with the Church of England, or in Scotland, connected with the Established Church of Scotland.

2207. And in Ireland?—There is no Established Church there.

2208. What do you do in that case?—I do not advise for Ireland, and I do not know that any case has arisen since the disestablishment of the Church in Ireland. I should think there would be no power whatever left there.

Sir William Harcourt.

2209. Might I ask you this: what power has the department to grant land, or to grant moneys for the improvement of places in which they have a large interest; I will give as an instance such a place as Lyndhurst in the New Forest, where the Crown has a large interest, and has a population dependent upon them. What power has the Crown to give land, or to give money for draining, or waterworks, gasworks, and things of that kind, which an ordinary landowner would do in places where he had a considerable pecuniary interest?—I do not think there is any other power, so far as I remember at the present moment, except the general power of management.

2210. Perhaps you would look into that for another day, because it is an important matter whether, in point of fact, the Crown, as a landowner, has the same powers that an ordinary landowner would exercise in favour of places in which they have a large pecuniary interest?—Yes.

Chairman.

2211. Take the case of a sewage outfall. Suppose they wanted land for a sewage outfall at Lyndhurst. We want to know whether there is any power for the Crown to grant land for the purpose of sewage on its own property?—To grant land, I am sure there is none.

2212. There is another point which was raised by Mr. Williams; that is, whether the Crown has power to grant money. You have told us that they have power to grant land for churches, chapels, schools, and so on, but have they power to give money?—I think they have power to give money, but it must be confined in the same way. That is the view of the department.

2213. You think it is under the same clause?—No, not under the same clause; under the general power of management they give money.

Sir William Harcourt.

2214. What do you mean by the general power of management; what do you take that to cover in the way of authority to the Crown

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

to spend money on general purposes?—I think it received some sort of interpretation years ago. It would be very difficult actually to define it.

Chairman.

2215. I quite understand what you say, that they have no power to grant land for a Nonconformist chapel, or a Nonconformist school, or, as the case was put before us, of a board school. Now, supposing you come to the question of money, do you consider that the Crown has no power to give money to a school; we will say that land is not wanted, but that they are wanting to build a new school?—And ask for a contribution?

2216. And ask for a contribution, where the Crown has property?—The practice is that the Crown has no power to do it, unless it is in the case of an Established Church school.

2217. I know; but I want to ask you where you arrive at that limitation. You say it is under the "General Management." Well, the landowner may choose to say in one parish on his estate, "I will give 500 £. towards a National School"; in another parish, "I will give 100 £. towards a British and Foreign School." How is it that the Crown has no power to do that. It has the power to give to a National School; how is it it has not the power to give to a British and Foreign School?—I had in my mind the opinion of the law officers.

2218. We must have that authoritatively next time, if you please; that you have been so advised that, under the Act of Parliament, the Crown has no power to grant land at all, except as authorised by the Act?—I can state that now.

2219. And with this limitation you state that positively?—I can state that positively now: we have been so advised.

2220. Now we want to know under what statutory or other authority the Crown is never to give money for charitable or educational purposes; and secondly, if the Crown is so unable, under what statutory or other authority is the Crown compelled only to give that to one Ecclesiastical Denomination?—I think I can answer that now. The Act of 10 Geo. 4 gave a general power of management, and the contribution towards a school is a general object that the landowner should be able to contribute to; and the section of the Act which limits the grant of land to the Established Church, shows that the intention of Parliament was that the other powers given should be exercised in the same way.

2221. You tell the Committee that you have been so advised, that the law officers of the Crown have laid down, what I must say, is that extraordinary doctrine, that the Crown is limited to that extent under its general power of management?—Yes; its general power of management, as far as the money is concerned.

Sir William Harcourt.

2222. I do not quite follow you. I understood you to say that under the general power of management you could lay out money for such purposes,

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Mr. GORST.

[Cont.]

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

purposes, but that there was some special clause which restricted that to a particular denomination?—No; the special clause is with regard to land. The special clause restricts the power of the Sovereign to make a free grant of land to the case of churches, schools, &c., of the Church of England.

Chairman.

2223. In the Isle of Man there was a grant of 155 l.; do you know what that was, or under what authority?—I do not know.

2224. This is the 45th Section of 10 Geo. 4, chapter 50; the power is "to give and grant to, and vest in any body or bodies politic or corporate, or any person or persons whomsoever, and their heirs and successors respectively, for such estate or interest therein as to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, shall seem meet, any building proper to be used as or converted into, or any ground proper for the site of any church or chapel, with or without a cemetery or burial ground thereto, or any ground proper for a cemetery or burial ground, to any church or chapel, and any house, with its appurtenances, and with or without a garden thereto, proper for the residence of the spiritual person who may serve such church or chapel, or any ground proper for the site or sites of any such residence or of any parochial or district school." Now is there any other wording in that Act except that that I have read from which you gather the indication of the Legislature, that that is to be confined to the Established Churches of England and Scotland?—No.

2225. There is nothing else than that?—I do not know of anything else.

2226. And upon that section you justify the restriction of giving of money within the same limits?—I say that that is what we are advised by our competent advisers is the course we should take.

2227. And would you apply that ruling to the Episcopal Church of Scotland; that is not established; they are Dissenters there; I want to see whether in giving money towards a school in Scotland they would not give any money to a school belonging to the Free Church or the Episcopal Church?—I understand it is the Established Church of Scotland.

2228. We know that there is the Established Presbyterian Church of Scotland; there is also the Episcopalian Church of Scotland, which is

Chairman—continued.

equivalent to the Church of England, and of the Tweed you would give land or money to the Church of England, and north of the Tweed you would not?—Yes.

2229. That is so?—Yes, that is so.

2230. I think you had better consider that point, because this is a very important branch of our inquiry, and I should like to have it cleared up clearly at our next meeting?—In Scotland you give to the Established Church.

2231. And to no one else?—And to no one else.

2232. And in England to the Established Church, and to no one else?—And no one else.

2233. And that, so far as the land is concerned is under that clause; so far as money is concerned it is under the general clause of the owner having power to manage his estate?—You think that that power is limited by the wording of that section?—By the wording of that section of this Act.

2234. That we are to understand as, in your opinion, but the opinion of the law officers of the Crown?—Yes; and I believe that that is the opinion of the law officers of the Crown for years and years, and that I have seen old law officers who are dead and gone on the earlier question.

Sir William Harcourt.

2235. I was going to ask you about the power of the Crown to contribute to places where the Crown has a large interest in other matters. For instance, do I understand you quite clearly that if there is a drainage scheme in a parish or a town in which the Crown has an interest, it has no power to contribute to that drainage scheme either by granting money or by granting land?—I feel pretty certain I am safe in saying that it has no power to grant a grant of land. As to the power to grant money I should like to answer you another time.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

2236. When you speak of Scotland, and say that you have not in view any special case arising there?—I do not advise for Scotland.

2237. The actual property of the Woods and Forests there is small, is it not?—I know. I know nothing about it at all. There is a separate solicitor at Edinburgh who looks after all Scotch matters.

Friday, 5th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir Joseph Bailey.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.
Sir William Harcourt.

Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw-Stewart.

MR. HENRY H. FOWLER, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. THOMAS WILLIAM GORST, again called in; and further Examined.

Chairman.

2238. I BELIEVE you wish to make a correction in the evidence which you gave on the last occasion?—Yes. At Question 2234 I said I believed that it was the opinion of the law officers of the Crown “for years and years,” and that I believed I had seen old opinions of the law officers. I find I was mistaken as to that.

2239. Having had time to refer to the opinion of the law officers, will you just tell us what rule the department adopts, and under what advice?—The department are advised that the Crown has not the power to make out of the land revenues grants of money and free grants of land for churches, chapels, and schools which are not connected with the Established Church of England or Scotland.

2240. Let us take the two questions distinct if you please. First, we are dealing with 10 George 4, chapter 50, section 45. There is a power in that section for the Commissioners to grant land for the site of a church, or chapel, or cemetery, or house, “proper for the residence of the spiritual person who may serve such church or chapel.” We understand that you are advised that under that clause the power is confined to the Churches of England and Scotland?—The Commissioners have been so advised years ago by my predecessors. I have never advised on that point. They have been advised by my predecessors, and recently that has been confirmed by the law officers.

2241. Might I ask how many years ago?—Since they were so advised, you mean?

2242. Yes; I presume it was an original advice?—I think it would be about the year 1840.

2243. Do you know whether the case of the Church of Scotland was prominently brought to the notice of the law officers of that time, in 1840?—The law officers have never advised until recently.

0.103.

Chairman—continued.

2244. It has been simply the opinion of the solicitor of the department?—It has been the opinion of the solicitor of the department.

2245. Now will you give us the date of the opinion of the law officers?—I believe it was this last January.

2246. Last January?—About last January.

2247. The case of the Church of Scotland was brought to their notice then?—Yes.

2248. Then, in addition to making grants of land, you also make grants of money. Your answer is this:—“Under the general clause of a landowner having power to manage his estate?”—Yes; under the 113th section, I think it is.

2249. Perhaps you will just read the section, and then it will get on to the notes?—“And be it further enacted, that the annual income of all the said possessions and land revenues of the Crown, to which this Act relates, including fines on leases, and all other sums received in respect of such leases or otherwise, for or in respect of the said possessions and land revenues (except from sales or exchanges), shall be applied in manner following (that is to say), in the first place, in payment of the costs, charges, and expenses attending the management of the said possessions and land revenues.

2250. It is under that clause, you say?—Under those words.

2251. The “payment of the costs, charges, and expenses attending the management”?—Yes.

2252. Under that clause you are advised that it is competent for the Commissioners to make a grant of money to either of the Churches of England or of Scotland, but not to make a grant of money to any other religious denomination?—I am not aware that they have been advised that they can make a grant of money to any school.

2253. For any religious purpose whatsoever. We have it in the Papers that are put in before the Committee that grants are made: “Donations

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Mr. GORST.

[Cont.]

Chairman—continued.

tions to churches, schools," &c. "Donations, "not grants of land," but "Donations to churches, schools, institutions, &c.," ranging from 2,700 *l.* in 1879 to 3,200 *l.*; in 1880, 3,100 *l.*; in 1881, to 3,300 *l.*; in 1882, 2,400; then we have 3,900 *l.*, 2,800 *l.*, 1,400 *l.*, 1,900 *l.*, and 1,300 *l.*; those are the donations of money to churches and schools?—Yes.

2254. I understand that they make those donations under the power of paying "the costs, charges, and expenses attending the management"?—I understand that is so.

2255. And they are advised that those donations to churches and schools must be confined to the churches of England and Scotland?—I would rather put it in the words of the law officers; that they have no power to make such a grant for churches or chapels which are not connected with the Established Church.

2256. I want you to put it in your own words. What I want to get upon the evidence, in some shape or other, is really what is the opinion of the law officers. I do not want to have any cross-examination or to make any attempt to entrap you into any answer that you do not want to give?—I do not think you quite understand me.

2257. Very likely it is my fault. Put it in your own words?—So far as I am aware the Commissioners have never been advised by anybody that there is a power to make grants to schools connected with the Established Church. They may have been; I do not know; they never have been by me, certainly.

2258. Under what power do they make these donations. We have it, as a matter of fact, that they give about 5,000 *l.* a year in donations to churches and schools?—Under Clause 113, I understand it to be.

2259. They do it *ex propria motu* without any advice; they think they have authority to do it?—So far as I am aware. I have never advised (at least so far as I am aware) upon it.

Mr. GEORGE CULLEY, again called in; and further Examined.

Chairman.

2268. ARE you now prepared to put in a statement of gross income, gross expenditure, and payments into the Exchequer out of the net income for each year from the 5th January 1837 to the 31st March 1888?—Yes; I have carried it on to 1889, you will see. (*The document is handed in, vide Appendix.*)

2269. That includes the whole of the present reign?—The whole of the present reign.

2270. Since the Act was passed, then, on the Accession of the Sovereign, the gross income derivable from the Crown property has been 21,784,000 *l.*?—That is so.

2271. The expenditure has been, of all sorts, 6,656,000 *l.*?—That is so.

2272. And the net payment into the Exchequer has been 14,971,575?—That is so.

2273. Practically 15,000,000 *l.* has been received from the Crown lands since the Queen ascended the Throne?—That is so. With regard to the question you were asking Mr. Gorst a few minutes ago, the figures that you read apply

Chairman—continued.

2260. Then, if no opinion has been taken as to their power to make donations, no opinion has been taken as to the limitation under which donations have been made?—I do not think I quite understand you.

2261. I understand you to say that no opinion of the law officers has been taken as to whether they are competent to give donations to churches &c. connected with the Established Church of England and Scotland?—Yes.

2262. Then of course no opinion has been taken as to whether those donations, if they do not, are to be confined to the churches of England and Scotland?—Yes, it has.

2263. That is what I want to get at. Will you tell us the fact as to that?—The answer you before was given in the words of the law officers.

2264. Will you just read them again. William Harcourt did not hear them?—The Crown has not the power to make out of the Land Revenues grants of money and freeholds of land for churches, chapels, and schools which are not connected with the Established Church of England or Scotland."

Mr. Donald Crawford.

2265. What is the date of that opinion?—About January last.

Mr. Hobhouse.

2266. I understand that the words of the 11th Section of the Act of 1829, "Any ground or site for the site or sites of any such residence of any parochial or district school," have been held to refer to parochial and district schools connected with the Established Church of England and Scotland, and no other district schools. That is the advice given to the Commissioners before my time, and which they have acted upon.

2267. And confirmed by a recent opinion of the law officers?—Yes.

Chairman—continued.

to fixed charges, as well as donations to churches, chapels, and schools.

2274. Do you mean annual contributions?—No, I mean fixed charges that are charged on the Crown revenues for certain officers in different parts of the country. The Professor of Law in Edinburgh, for example, and that kind. For the year 1888 the fixed charges amounted to 757 *l.*, and the donations to churches and schools to 1,294 *l.*

2275. I suppose, from the opinion of the law officers having been taken so recently as that, last, application had been made to the Commissioners to make donations either to board schools or to denominations other than the two of England and Scotland?—I think what it was, that we found that the action in different departments of the Woods and Forest Office had not been altogether similar; that there had been contributions to schools which were connected with the Church of England on one side; and I doubt whether there had

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

the other for a considerable time. I think there was, at one time, a contribution to some Welsh schools in Wales, but probably those schools have, by this time, become rate-aided schools. In fact, the question is very much clouded now with regard to contributions to schools, because under the Treasury Order we did not contribute to any school that would rank as a public elementary school, and I understand that, except board schools and voluntary schools connected with the Church of England, there are very few schools that would rank as public elementary schools to which we could make contributions.

76. Do you mean that there are very few such schools, or that there are very few to which you could make it?—I think very few would rank as schools to which, under the Treasury Order, we could make a contribution, that is, say, schools which are not either board schools or schools connected with the Church of England.

77. The whole of the schools of the Roman Catholic Church, and, I think, the whole of the schools of the British and Foreign Society, and the schools, I think, of the Nonconformist churches in this country that receive Government grants, are all public elementary schools?—If they receive public grants they would rank as public elementary schools.

78. But, as I understand, you told us that under that opinion you are precluded from giving them?—Under the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, you mean?

79. Yes?—That would appear to be so.

Sir William Harcourt.

80. With reference to this Table, to which Mr. Fowler has referred, I observe that the net payment into the Exchequer in the year 1838 (is on the Queen's Accession), was 180,000 l.? I believe that is so. I have not a copy of the return in my hand. That is for one year.

81. Yes; I am taking the first year?—Yes.

82. In 1838, the net payment into the Exchequer was 180,000 l.; and I observe also, that in the year ending 31st March 1889, the net payment into the Exchequer was 430,000 l.?—Is so.

83. Therefore the net payment into the Exchequer for the last financial year was 250,000 l. more than it was in the year 1838?—Is so.

84. It is not of course in your time, but I understand that there are two years, 1848 and 1849, in which the payments into the Exchequer were remarkably less than in the average of the preceding, and in the years following; I understand they fall below 100,000 l. a year in those years; do you happen to know what the cause of that was?—I think the explanation of that is that they were accumulating funds to pay off a debt which was actually paid off in 1854, a debt to the Exchequer. If you look down as far as the year 1854, you will find the payment that year was 100,000 l., and then the year following it fell to 100,000 l.

85. There is one other question I want to ask.

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

ask about that; I see that your net payments into the Exchequer in 1889 were 430,000 l., and in the preceding years sums amounting to an average of about 390,000 l. or under?—Yes.

2286. So that last year was something like 40,000 l. better than the preceding years; what is the cause of that?—One reason is that we had kept a very large balance at the end of the year before, and we reduced that considerably last year: but I have no reason to suppose that we shall not pay in 430,000 l. this year; and I certainly hope the revenue will not fall below that henceforth.

2287. You think the payment of 1889 may be taken as a fair average for the future?—For some years to come.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

2288. I want to ask a question about the contributions to schools; I think you said the Treasury had given instructions that you were not to contribute to any school that was not a public elementary school?—That is so. I would rather like to refer to the Treasury Order.

2289. You said that beside board schools, there were very few that would rank as public elementary schools to which you could make contributions?—That was my own opinion upon the subject. I have not looked into that subject so closely as I might have done, but my impression was that the position was narrowed to that extent.

2290. Will you give me your own reason, which I have no doubt was a very good one; why should you say board schools are unsuitable to receive donations?—Because they are supported by the rates, to which of course the Crown contributes for its property. In Scotland there is a half-rating division under which the Crown is very considerably rated as an owner, irrespective of the rating through its tenants.

2291. That is just the question I was coming to; I do not know how that stands; I should like to know, both in England and Scotland, do the Crown consider themselves liable to rates or not. In regard to public buildings, I know they do not hold themselves liable?—They do not consider themselves liable; at the same time they contribute in the same proportion as if they were liable.

2292. The full amount?—Yes, the full amount.

Mr. Hobhouse.

2293. With regard to the actual amount given to these churches and schools, I think that is distinguished on pages 6 and 7 of this Return C. that you have put in. They are distinguished from fixed charges there you will see, if you look down that page. The donations are given as 1,453 l. for the year 1888?—The figures Mr. Fowler was reading coupled those things together.

Chairman.

2294. No, they did not, I excluded the fixed charges?—Yes, I see now that you excluded them.

2295. Yes, I gave simply the donations. The fixed charges come separately?—I thought you were reading from the first page of the Return.

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2296. Perhaps

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

2296. Perhaps you will correct your answer as to that in the proof of your evidence?—Yes, I will see that that is put right.

Mr. Hobhouse.

2297. With regard to the variations in those amounts, I see the amount of the donations has diminished of late?—Yes.

2298. Is that accidental, or have you altered your principle of contribution in these days of agricultural depression?—No, I think it must have arisen since 1874; that is, since so many schools have become board schools, rate-aided schools.

2299. I see there has been a considerable diminution since the year 1878. In 1878 over 5,000 *l.* was given, and in the last three years the contributions have been under 2,000 *l.*?—I think that must be the main cause, but it took some time to absorb these schools. The change to the board schools, the rate-aided schools was a gradual one, and would probably continue up to about 1878.

2300. In the case of the board schools, I understand you regard the Crown as having fulfilled its proper obligations as a landowner by its rates paid in lieu of contributions?—Yes, I consider so.

2301. Then you have been paying the same in amount as if you were directly rated?—As if we were directly rated.

2302. A difference in form?—A difference in form, and only in form.

2303. As regards voluntary schools, there is no contribution made to them up to that time?—We would contribute as any landowner would contribute. We would take the proportion of our property in the parish, and that of other landowners, and contribute according to that.

2304. Your contributions would be regulated to some extent by those of neighbouring landowners?—Yes; there might be persons, renters of property in the parish, wealthy persons, and in that case I should myself reduce our contribution. I take all the circumstances of the parish into consideration in fixing the contribution.

Chairman.

2305. One question upon this Return. Just take the four last decades. I find that in 1859, the net sum paid into the Exchequer was 280,000 *l.*; in 1869, it was 360,000 *l.*; in 1879, it was 410,000 *l.*; and in 1889, it was 430,000 *l.*?—That is so.

2306. That, therefore, indicates a steady growth in the net income during the last 40 years?—That is quite the characteristic of the Returns.

2307. May I ask you in connection with this, this question: do you, as the Senior Commissioner of the Woods and Forests, consider that the property is now in as good an income earning condition as it has been at any time during the last 50 years?—I think it is in a better condition. I think it has been admirably well managed, so far as I can judge of it.

2308. The *corpus* of the property has not been

Chairman—continued.

diminished; the income has been very much increased?—Yes.

2309. I think you want to make an explanation as to losses in connection with your receiver. Have you made any losses?—For 30 years have not lost a sixpence by the default of a receiver.

2310. Did you lose anything before that?—I have not been able to go back beyond that.

2311. So far as your experience is concerned there has never been any loss in consequence of the default of a receiver?—So far as my experience is concerned there has never been a loss by the default of a receiver.

Sir William Harcourt.

2312. Do you consider that besides the Crown property being a property that has gradually improved, there is every reason to believe there is a prospect of its being in the future improving property?—I think there is every reason to think so.

Mr. Henage.

2313. As regards town property in London.—It has been always our policy to sell land lying at a distance, and which were troublesome and so on. Our investments are confined to investments in the funds, or investments in property, and the practice of late has been, when sales have taken place, to invest the proceeds of those sales in ground rents in London. That has been distinctly the case during the time I have been at the Office of Woods.

Sir William Harcourt.

2314. There is a head here, "Interest in Money." What are those investments in which interest in money is paid, apart from ground rents: it is on your Tables at page 17, "Dividends and interest," 17,000 *l.* I want to know what is the character of those investments?—The dividends are from investments in the funds, and interest of estates purchased, where the purchase-money has not altogether paid.

2315. They are mainly interest in the funds?—Yes, mainly, I think.

2316. Do you happen to have here the figures of the capital investment in the funds?—On 31st March 1888, 96,156 *l.* was invested in the funds.

2317. You hold that?—Yes, I beg your pardon, we hold that.

2318. That would not account for the interest of 17,000 *l.* a year?—No, not for that year. That item for that year includes 10,596 *l.* interest on the balance of purchase-money of premises in Spence Gardens, under the Public Offices Sites Act, 1874.

2319. Those larger sums which make up the greater part of the 17,000 *l.* will pass out of the item as soon as those estates are purchased; will go under the head of rent?—Yes, that is so. That will pass away as a separate item.

2320. That is only what you may call a temporary capital account in that shape?—That is

5 July 1889.

The Honourable GERALD W. LASCELLES, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

2321. I BELIEVE you are the deputy surveyor of the New Forest?—Yes.

2322. Will you tell us first what your duties are?—My duties are to look after the property of the New Forest generally, to superintend the management of the plantations, the farm land, cultivated land, repairs to houses and buildings, and generally supervise the property.

2323. You are in fact the responsible agent of Commissioners in the whole of the New Forest?—Just so.

2324. Both the agricultural property and all Forest property are under your control?—

2325. And you have the letting of all those properties?—Subject to the directions of the Commissioners.

2326. Subject to the directions of the Commissioners; and the planting, and felling, and management of the Forest are also under your control?—That is so.

2327. Do you receive any of the rents?—I receive all the rents in the New Forest.

2328. And do you remit them to the Receiver General or to Mr. Clutton?—I remit them to the Receiver General. I pay them into my own account and remit the balance to the Receiver General.

2329. You have a drawing account. I presume you keep your accounts separate; you do not mix it with your own private account?—No, I keep a separate account.

2330. Therefore you draw upon that account any payments you may be called upon to make in the New Forest?—Just so.

2331. And you submit accounts of every receipt and every payment to the Commissioners?—Yes, monthly.

2332. And you have to have their sanction for outlay?—Yes.

2333. Could you tell us roughly what is the extent of the agricultural part of the New Forest?—Roughly, about 1,000 acres.

2334. Then the rest of the New Forest, which is about 60,000 acres, is all in wood?—No; the greater portion of it is in heath and waste. About 22,000 acres are in wood; I have the rest here.

2335. How long have you held your office?—Since 1880.

2336. Has there been any change in the management of the New Forest since you succeeded to power?—No, no material change.

2337. You found certain portions of the Forest enclosed, and you have left those portions alone?—

2338. You have had no felling since you have been there, to any extent?—Thinnings of woods and plantations, old and young; no ground has been cleared since I have been there.

Sir William Harcourt.

2339. I think the Committee would like to know the exact character of the estate of the Crown in the New Forest. First of all, what is the nominal extent of the Forest, generally, over the whole?—

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

which the Crown has any rights?—I make it 64,737 acres.

2340. What is generally called the New Forest, besides the Crown estate, includes a considerable quantity of land which is in manors belonging to private persons, does it not?—The perambulation of the Forest includes such land.

2341. The perambulation of the Forest is what?—In acreage?

2342. Yes?—92,000 I think, if I remember rightly.

2343. Out of that 92,000 acres there are the great manors of Beaulieu belonging to Lord Montague, are there not?—Yes.

2344. The Manor of Brockenhurst belonging to Mr. Morant?—Yes.

2345. The Manor of Minstead belonging to Mr. Compton?—Yes.

2346. And Burley and some others?—Yes.

2347. You say the extent of acreage over which the Crown has any rights is 64,000 acres?—Yes, 64,000.

2348. I should like you to explain to the Committee the various character of the rights which the Crown has over that 64,000 acres. First of all the Crown has a certain amount of freehold and copyhold, has it not?—Yes, the copyhold is now very small. The freehold is about 2,100 acres, of which 1,100 acres is plantation.

2349. Those are estates over which the Crown has absolute control like an ordinary landowner?—Yes.

2350. That would leave something like 62,000 acres over which the Crown has limited rights?—Yes, a limited ownership I should say.

2351. That is to say, it is subject to the rights of the commoners having rights of pasture?—And other rights as well.

2352. And other rights as well; rights of turbary, pannage and other rights?—Yes.

2353. At various periods there have been Acts of Parliament dealing with the New Forest, and, especially in the time of William III. there were certain powers given to the Crown, were there not, of inclosing lands for the purpose of growing timber for the Navy?—The first power of that kind was in the reign of Edward IV. The first Act that that was passed for the purpose of inclosing the Forest for the growth of timber was in that reign. Then there were subsequent Acts; then there came the Act of William III. which is better known, and which is the principal one which is acted upon at the present day.

2354. The policy of that Act was to give the Crown power to inclose for the purpose of growing timber for the Navy, was it not?—I should judge that it was rather to methodise and limit the power which the Crown had exercised previously, but it gave certain defined powers of inclosure.

2355. I imagine there had been a considerable consumption of timber in the reign of the Stuarts for the purposes of the Navy, had there not?—I presume so. The preamble of the Act states that it is necessary that the growth of timber in the Forest should be encouraged.

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2356. Since

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[Continued]

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

2356. Since the time of William III. there has been a certain amount of Crown plantation in the Forest, and I should like you, if you please, if you would to divide it into the plantations belonging to the early part of the last century, the plantations belonging to the latter part of the last century, and the beginning of this; and then thirdly, the plantations since the Deer Removal Act of 1851. First of all, there was a certain amount of the New Forest planted under the statute of William III., was there not?—Just so. The greater portions of the plantations of the New Forest were made under that Act, but not at that period.

2357. No. I was wrong in that; but could you divide the plantations into those which were made in the earlier part, in the first half, of the last century?—Yes. I think I have the figures here.

2358. How much wood was planted in the first half of the last century?—The woods that were begun to be planted immediately after the passing of the William III. Act are divided into two portions; those that are nominally planted in 1700, and those that are nominally planted in 1775.

2359. I want to separate the 1775, please, from the 1700?—That is what may be called the ripe timber of the Forest, is it not?—Yes.

2360. I wanted to get the amount of the wood planted in the earlier part of the last century; the first half?—Three hundred and twenty-seven acres of woods were planted in 1700.

2361. And was there no more planted in the first half of the century, before 1775?—Yes, there was a large quantity, but that has been cut and realised years ago. There were many plantations besides those which are now standing.

2362. Are those all gone?—Those are all gone.

2363. Then, of the plantations of the early part of the last century, you have how much left?—Three hundred and twenty-seven acres.

2364. And of that a considerable quantity of wood has been already cut, has it not?—The trees stand very thick. They have been thinned periodically, but these 327 acres stand thick.

2365. That is really, of the Crown plantations, the only part, is it not, which may be considered ripe timber?—No; I think there is a considerable portion of it which was planted in 1775 and which will never be any better.

2366. The best timber that you have in the forest is that of the 1700 period, is it not?—That and the woods which were made previously to that period.

2367. There was another considerable quantity of wood planted at the end of the last century and the beginning of this, was there not; that is to say, from 1770 to 1820?—Yes.

2368. That is all oak timber, is it not?—Oak and beech; mainly oak.

2369. It was mainly oak for the Navy, was it not?—Mainly oak, but there was a large quantity of beech sent to the dockyards.

2370. How much of those plantations have you got, from 1770 to 1820, about?—I have not them divided into that form exactly here. I can give you the 1775 plantations. There are 898 acres of the 1775 plantations; and then I divide them into a second section to correspond with the

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

Report to Parliament in 1885 of "woods 75 to 100 years old, of which there are 2 acres. That covers the period which you mentioned just now.

2371. Of that timber, do you consider that is mainly ripe, or not?—No. All of which is doing any good at all is growing and is getting better certainly. Some of very good.

2372. A great deal of it is very inferior, is it not?—A part of it; not a great deal of section; most of it is doing pretty well.

2373. You would not consider the New Forest generally an oak-growing district, would you?—Generally, certainly not.

2374. In fact, there is a very limited portion of the New Forest which is fit for the growth of good oak timber at all?—A very limited portion.

2375. And that has been, I suppose, in former times occupied with oak timber?—I think the whole of it has been occupied over and over again, so far as I can make out.

2376. In the year 1851, when the Deer Removal Act was passed, there was a very large amount of planting, was there not?—About that period there was.

2377. I mean subsequently to the Deer Removal Act?—No, there was a large amount of planting just before the Deer Removal Act was passed to complete the planting under the William III. Act.

2378. Tell me how much land has been planted in the New Forest, say, in the last 50 years?—Fifty years?

2379. I mean including the period of which you are speaking now, and the Deer Removal Act?—9,923 acres.

2380. I should have asked you whether before the Act of William III. there was what was called a "rolling power; that is to say, inclosed plantations were thrown open then to a power to take in an equivalent amount of land in the Forest, was there not?—Yes, that was so.

2381. How much then before the Committee of 1875 sat had the Crown of wood under control, apart from the open forest; that is to say, of wood that had been inclosed under the various Acts since the time of William III.?—17,671 acres.

2382. And when the Committee of 1875 reported, the Crown was then limited to the wood which had up to that time been inclosed by the various Acts from the time of William II.?—Yes.

2383. They were to inclose no more?—No, is so.

2384. And even with respect to the wood which had been planted before, they were to retain the ornamental character of those woods and were not at liberty to deal with them as an ordinary landowner would be, who could cut the woods down altogether if he liked?—I think the expression is that a sufficient number of trees were to be left on the ground.

2385. That is to say, an ordinary landowner, of course, could cut down the whole of the woods he liked. I see here the Report of the Committee "That the Crown should retain the power to

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keeping 16,000 acres of growing timber and trees planted under the Acts of William III. and 1851 all times under inclosure; and that the Crown is entitled to inclose and throw out at will any portion of the area over which the powers of planting are to be exercised with a view to its restricted use in such manner as may be deemed expedient for the most profitable growth of timber and trees; but that the rolling power over the open portion of the forest not now planted or inclosed under the Acts William III. 1851 should cease"—Yes, that is so.

2386. Therefore the power of the Crown, with reference to the estate in the New Forest, is greatly restricted?—Very greatly.

2387. First there is the right of the commons over the whole of the land, except that which is actually fenced; that is to say, over the open Forest, and over the woods which have been thrown out, and the Crown is restrained from cutting the timber in the open Forest, and is limited as to its cutting of the timber in the woods, which have been grown under inclosure, the condition that it shall preserve the ornamental character of the Forest?—I do not think the Crown is restrained from cutting timber in the open Forest, subject to the proviso that it maintains the ornamental character of the grounds; the same limitation is placed on the thinning of the plantations, whether thrown out or inclosed.

2388. But the ornamental character of the Forest must be maintained?—Yes.

2389. Previously to that period there had been very great clearance of timber in the Forest, was there not?—Yes; 30 years ago there was a great clearance.

2390. That is to say, soon after the passing of the Deer Removal Act, 1851?—Yes, at that period.

2391. There was a great quantity of timber thrown down, was there not?—There was, no doubt.

2392. Almost all the oak timber in the open Forest, or the greater proportion of it was cut down, was it not?—A great proportion of what was ripe no doubt was cut; but I could hardly answer that question accurately.

2393. The predominant wood of the New Forest is beech, and not oak now, is it not?—Yes, it is beech, of the older wood, I should say; the predominant wood of the young plantations is still oak.

2394. In the inclosures of the Crown?—In the inclosures of the Crown, in the young plantations, it is oak; but in the older plantations, the predominant wood is beech.

2395. There were great blocks of plantations of fir and oak made after the Deer Removal Act, were there not?—There were.

2396. And the Committee of 1875 recommended, and Parliament passed an Act restraining any further inclosure beyond that which had already made?—Yes, that is so.

2397. So that in the 60,000 acres of the Forest, apart from the freehold of which you have spoken, all that the Crown has at its disposal for the purpose of timber is this 16,000 acres?—Seventeen thousand six hundred acres.

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Sir William Harcourt—continued.

2398. Does that include the inclosures in the freehold?—No, it does not. The freehold inclosures are 1,100 acres more.

2399. I do not quite understand; the Report of 1875 speaks of the Crown obtaining the power of keeping 16,000 acres of growing timber and trees?—That, I think, is the power to enclose 16,000 acres of growing timber and trees out of 17,671 which exist; but that power has never been exercised.

Mr. Jackson.

2400. To the full extent?—I mean to the full.

Sir William Harcourt.

2401. Of that wood so under your control, a very small part (at present at all events) is in a condition in which you can realise money for timber?—There is a very small portion on which I can realise money for timber.

2402. That is to say, that the timber portion of it is at present hardly in profit at all; is not that so?—The greater portion of it is not in profit as regards timber.

2403. I see your sales of timber were 365 *l.* in the account of last year?—Yes, just so.

2404. In fact of ripe timber wood there is very little at present capable of being realised?—Do you mean if the Act of 1877 did not exist there would be very little that could be realised?

2405. Under the Act of 1877, under the conditions under which you are working, the amount of timber you are able to cut is very small?—Very small, indeed.

2406. The principal part of your yield is from the thinnings of the fir plantations made since 1850?—A great portion of it. Then there is the bark from the younger plantations; and oak poles out of those plantations; I think you can hardly call them timber.

2407. Those are the thinnings, in fact?—Those are the thinnings of those plantations. They can hardly be called timber. Some of it is timber, and some of it is not; it might be described as "small timber."

Chairman.

2408. Of the residue of the Forest a great portion is land which will grow nothing at all, I suppose?—Yes.

2409. Bare land with very little soil upon it, especially on the tops of the ridges?—Yes, very bad land.

Sir William Harcourt.

2410. There is another portion which consists of the ancient woods and lawns?—Yes, I should hardly mix them together. There are the ancient woods and the lawns.

2411. And those are the woods specially referred to in the Report of 1875 and the Act of 1877, are they not. "The ancient ornamental woods and trees shall be carefully preserved, and the character of the scenery shall be maintained." That is the portion of the Forest to which that Report refers, is it not?—Then there is a subsequent clause of the Act which seems to refer more to later plantations planted under William III. It is rather difficult to say which portion of the wood was specially referred to. There is a clause

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clause which mentions I think lands previously specified. "Care shall be taken to preserve the ornamental character, and to preserve seedlings, which shall spring up in them, and to plant in the open spaces." That, strictly speaking, refers only to the plantations planted under William III.; but there are no open spaces, or but few open spaces in those; and the trees are too dense for seedlings to spring up, so that I have never really been satisfied which class of wood that clause in the Act was intended to refer.

2412. Of course, with reference to the greater part of this property it is subject to the right of common of the cattle and the ponies of the commoners which range over the whole of it, except that which is actually fenced in at the present time?—Quite so.

2413. Can you tell me what is the amount which is actually under fence now?—10,585 acres.

2414. And the residue (the 7,000 acres) will be woods that have been thrown out, and where the cattle now range?—Yes; 7,086 acres.

2415. I ask you these questions in order to show that this estate is one which is not, by the direction of Parliament, intended to be worked merely for purposes of profit?—So I understand.

2416. It is also to be preserved for purposes of ornament?—Quite so; so I have always supposed.

2417. And the actual amount of the estate which is capable of being turned to profit is only a small fraction of the whole?—Quite so.

2418. And even of that portion which is capable of being turned to profit, the plantations are so recent that at the present time you are not realising any large amount from them?—To a great extent that is so.

2419. First of all, for a good many years past the sale of the fir wood has been very small, has it not?—It has been very bad indeed; it was rather better last year, but for some years previously to that it had been very bad indeed. It has been hardly possible to sell it.

2420. And with regard to these plantations made since 1850, I suppose it will be a good many years before anything except the fir thinings can be realised?—Many years.

2421. So that, practically speaking, all that you will have in the way of timber will be what you can get out of the woods planted at the end of the last century and the beginning of this?—Yes, nearly all.

2422. Therefore, what I understand you to say is this: That you work under the conditions of the Act of 1887, and that the contemplation of that Act was that the estate should be maintained in a great degree for the purposes of (to use the words of the Commission) "preserving the ornamental woods and trees and maintaining the character of the scenery"?—So I understand.

2423. And that that would account for the income derived from an apparently large acreage being a very small income?—Perfectly.

2424. I believe that, under the Deer Removal Act, when these large fir plantations were made,

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

the Crown was compelled to plant large blotches and were not at liberty to select small plots the growing of timber?—They were obliged to plant not less than 300 acres.

2425. That clause was inserted for the protection of the commoners, was it not from that the Crown might have selected all the grazing land?—So I suppose.

2426. The consequence of that was that the Crown was compelled to (and did in fact) plant a great deal of land under that Act that really not oak land at all?—By far the greater portion of it was not oak land at all. There was comparatively little oak land planted under the Deer Removal Act.

2427. Still it was planted with oak?—On a portion of it.

2428. The greater portion of it?—No, I should say not the greater portion of it.

2429. The greater portion of it is not planted with oak?—No, I should say the greater portion was not planted with oak.

2430. Planted simply with fir?—Simply with fir and with oak in the bottoms, and what appeared to be the better places, a great quantity of which planting has failed. They are practically now only fir plantations and some of them were entirely fir plantations. The ones that were planted earlier had oak planted in the greater part of them. Those that come later had oak planted in about half of them. I should say that the later ones have none at all worth speaking of, or a very small quantity.

2431. The contemplation of all those statutes was the planting of oak for the Navy, was it not?—I imagine so (*here a copy of the Act is handed to the Witness*). It is pointed out to me that the Deer Removal Act in Clause 3 says "It shall be lawful to inclose, improve, and plant with trees of any kind out of the waste lands of the Forest;" so that I imagine that statute does not contemplate planting oak for the Navy.

2432. As a matter of fact I suppose you supply no oak to the Navy now?—No, I never supplied any oak to the Navy.

2433. Whatever you have is sold to dealers in timber?—I have never cut a tree in the Forest that a Navy purveyor would have looked at a moment.

2424. A good deal of the wood is what is called "shaky," is it not?—Nearly all of the older plantations.

2435. It is what they call "shaky" wood?—It is nearly all of it shaky wood, and in a state of decay as to older plantations: not fit for any purposes.

2436. I imagine that in old times the value of it was to furnish the crooked timber for the knees of ships, was it not?—Yes, and I believe it had the character of being exceedingly hard timber. It was valuable for keels, stern-posts, and works of that kind.

2437. It is not timber that would make plank at all?—No, I believe that it was always considered in old times that they relied upon the Forest for plank, and upon the New Forest for main timbers. I have been told so. I am generally merely hearsay as to that.

2438. The demand, of course, for timber

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Sir William Harcourt—continued.

that kind, for the Navy has ceased nearly?—It has ceased entirely.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

2439. I have the account of the New Forest before me, at page 136 of the Commissioners' Report. I see that the incomings for the year ending 31st March 1888 are 10,777 £., and the outgoing 8,893 £., leaving a profit of about 1,800 £. or so?—Yes; that figure does not include what is called the Mines Account, the sale of gravel, marl, and so on.

2440. Are there mines in the New Forest also?—No, there are not mines, but there are marl pits, gravel pits, and sand pits; which are dealt with under the Mines Account.

2441. I was going to ask you, seeing that the outgoings or the expenses swallow up the whole profit nearly, whether there are any recommendations you could make to the Committee for decreasing that expense; whether the staff is in any way excessive, or the salaries too high?—No, I am sorry to say that I have nothing that I could recommend, because the great extent of the Forest necessitates a large staff to look after it. It would be impossible for any one man or any two men to look after the labour and the forest operations that are carried on over so large a tract. They would spend all their time in going from one place to another. I would point out that in that account which you have there, there is an item of water supply to a lodge; and a good deal of repairs in the case of another lodge, which are repairs done for the tenant upon which the tenant pays 5 per cent. interest; therefore, they are not, strictly speaking, outgoing from the Forest at all. They are more in the nature of an investment, although charged against the outgoings for that particular year.

2442. That is only a small item compared to the expense generally?—That is so.

Mr. Heneage.

2443. Do I understand you to say that you are precluded, by the conditions imposed by the Act, from cutting down any of this oak, which you say is doing no good, and therefore, being a loss, is doing harm, going backwards?—No, not from cutting down any of it, but from clearing the ground.

2444. Are you prevented by the Act from cutting the oak down, and re-planting the land in a more profitable manner?—Yes; distinctly I could say that is the meaning of the Act.

2445. Therefore you are compelled to allow timber which is doing no good, and which is becoming less valuable, to remain on the ground under that Act?—That is so.

2446. Is that of any advantage to anybody?—Yes, I think it preserves the beauty of the scenery, and makes the Forest a more beautiful place.

2447. Then these oaks are sufficiently good to be left?—Yes, for some years to come they would be.

2448. Do the thinnings as a rule pay the expenditure?—Of cutting them?

2449. Do they pay the general expenditure of the Forest?—Yes, as a rule we have a net income.

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Mr. Heneage—continued.

2450. From that source?—From the thinnings.

2451. As regards your larch plantations, I suppose they pay you very well, do not they?—Larch is a failure in the New Forest. There is a certain amount of larch that was planted about the time of the Deer Removal Act being passed, plantations of about 30 to 40 years old; and there the larch is paying very well indeed at present, but it is beginning to go. It is a good rule in the New Forest to cut a larch tree the moment it becomes saleable, for if you leave anything with the view of getting timber out of it, you find you have to take six feet off the butt when it is finally cut.

2452. When you propose to re-plant the spaces that have now got oak in them, for which the oak is not suitable, and larch for which the ground is not suitable, have you any suggestion to make as to whether any other timber might be planted which might be profitable?—Such land would grow Scotch fir to great advantage.

2453. And you are not precluded from growing them, are you?—I apprehend we should be precluded from clearing the ground in order to plant Scotch fir.

Sir William Harcourt.

2454. Upon that, within the 17,000 acres, so long as you do not absolutely destroy the ornamental character of the woods you can plant Scotch fir or anything else, cannot you?—There is the clause which prohibits clearing the ground.

2455. Certainly; that is to say, you cannot cut down fine old wood "smack smooth," and plant the ground simply with Scotch fir; you must maintain the ornamental character of the wood; but subject to that, you may plant it with anything you like?—I can hardly interpret the Act sufficiently well to answer the question; but it has always seemed to me that there was very little liberty or license left to the Crown in the matter. The ornamental character of the Forest was to be preserved, and the ground was not to be cleared under any circumstances.

2456. That is to say, it is not to be cut down altogether?—Just so.*

2457. That condition was put in, was it not, to prevent the Crown doing in the New Forest what they had done previously to the sitting of that Committee; that is to say, cutting "smack smooth" fine ornamental woods, and replacing them with great blocks of Scotch fir; was not that the object?—No doubt that was the object of the Act.

2458. And therefore there is no longer a power in the Crown to do that with large spaces in the Forest; but they are to exercise their right over the Forest, whether in the 16,000 acres or outside the 16,000 acres with regard to the ornamental character of the woods?—Clearly; that is so undoubtedly.

Mr. Heneage.

2459. What I understand to be the case is this: that you are not at liberty to do that which any other landowner would do, take two or three acres at a time, clear it and re-plant it; but that you are obliged to leave a certain amount of the good

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Mr. Heneage—continued.

good timber, just as you would in a park, as ornamental timber?—Certainly; we are obliged to leave a certain quantity of timber as ornamental timber.

2460. But apart from that, so long as you leave a certain amount of good timber, you would be perfectly entitled to clear off half an acre here, and half an acre there, and re-plant it with anything that might be paying timber?—I should suppose so.

2461. You are doubtful with regard to that point?—I am doubtful about clearing any ground at all.

2462. May I ask you what you understand by the words "clearing the ground"?—Cutting down every tree that is upon it.

2463. And making it ready to re-plant again?—And making it ready to re-plant again.

2464. Then, in your opinion, you have no power to clear the ground, with the exception of those special trees which are left, to make the ground ready for re-planting?—You can only cut down a tree here and there; you must not prepare the ground for a re-plantation?—No; I understand that we could not go beyond what might legitimately be called "a last thinning."

Sir William Harcourt.

2465. This is so new to me that I should like to know what is the ground or the statute on which you make that statement?—"Care shall be taken to maintain the picturesque character of the ground, and not wholly to level or clear the ground."

Mr. Heneage.

2466. That is to say, you are to leave a sufficient amount of timber so as to keep up the picturesque character of the ground, and that for all other purposes the land is entirely at your disposal to make it as profitable as possible?—For other purposes.

2467. You do read it so?—I do read it so.

2468. Then, suppose you were to go over two or three acres of ground, and after marking a certain number of trees that you wish to remain for picturesque purposes, you would be, under that statute, at perfect liberty to thin or to fell, or whatever term you like to use, every other bit of timber, would you not?—After marking the ornamental trees?

2469. After selecting the ornamental trees to remain?—Yes, certainly; a sufficient number.

2470. Therefore "thinning" simply for the health of the trees that remain, is not the right word to use; you are entitled to clear the ground with the exception of those few ornamental trees which are left, are you not?—I apprehend we can do anything we like with this ground so long as we leave a sufficient number of ornamental trees.

2471. What do you consider "a sufficient number"?—That is a very nice point; I should not like to say.

2472. That is the whole point?—That is the whole point.

2473. That is perfectly true; having to leave a certain number of full-grown trees is naturally very detrimental to all the ground in the neigh-

Mr. Heneage—continued.

bourhood with regard to re-planting?—Of course immediately under trees.

2474. It makes it very difficult?—Yes; character of those old plantations is such that would be very difficult to re-plant leaving the trees.

Chairman.

2475. Have you any property or any land at Lyndhurst which would be available for building?—Yes, or which will be available for building, probably.

2476. Have you any power to let that land on building leases?—Yes.

2477. Under the existing law the Commissioners can let on building lease at Lyndhurst?—Yes, the freehold land.

2478. And without limit?—Without limit, except those limits that are provided by the Acts, which do not affect the forest especially.

2479. We have had two or three questions about the sewage of Lyndhurst; has an application been made to the Commissioners to grant land for a sewage outfall?—There has.

2480. Have the Commissioners declined it?—No.

2481. Will you just tell the Committee what stands?—They offered to provide land for the sewage outfall upon the only terms, I believe, on which they had power to grant it; that is to say, to give the people of Lyndhurst a licence to use a piece of ground as an outfall at their pleasure; and the ratepayers of Lyndhurst did not consider that that was a sufficiently good tenure for them to lay out money upon it; therefore the scheme fell through, and Lyndhurst is without sewage works.

2482. License at pleasure; could not they have granted them a lease of the same duration, say, as a building lease would have been?—

2483. What is the term of a building lease?—Ninety-nine years.

2484. Could not the Commissioners grant the Local Board of Lyndhurst a piece of land on a lease for 99 years, at a nominal rent for the purpose of a sewage outfall?—They could not, there had been a place suitable for an outfall in this freehold land; but there was not. It was necessary to carry it further away from the village, and on to the Crown land further on to the waste subject to common rights; they had no power to let that on lease. It would have been impossible to put a sewage outfall on any ground under their power.

2485. Has this question been brought before the Local Government Board?—Yes; there has been a Local Government Board inquiry into it.

2486. What did the Local Government Board recommend?—I understand that they reported that Lyndhurst stood very sorely in need of sewage works.

2487. Was there ever any suggestion made to the Local Government Board, on the occasion of the Lyndhurst people, should make a Provisional Order; that under that Provisional Order the Crown should be empowered to grant a lease, or to sell a portion of land for that purpose, and that Provisional Order being confirmed by Parliament, would have given them the power to do so?

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Chairman—continued.

statutory authority?—I do not know that that has ever recommended by the Local Government Board; and I believe there was a difficulty in this respect, that there is no water supply to Lyndhurst. I have always understood that the Local Government Board did not put pressure on the rural sanitary authority to make sewage works in consequence of their not having a water supply as well.

2488. Have you any suggestion to make to the Committee, you yourself residing in Lyndhurst, and having the supervision of the Crown property there; either with respect to the water supply or the sewage of Lyndhurst?—With regard to the sewage of Lyndhurst, I certainly make this suggestion, that there should be power for the Commissioners to grant a small portion of land, for works of a sanitary nature, for the good of the public. As regards the water supply I am afraid I have no suggestion to make.

Sir William Harcourt.

2489. Lyndhurst is a place which is very subject to what is called "zymotic disease," is it not? I mean there is a great deal of measles and that sort of disease in Lyndhurst?—Yes; still the whole I think it is a fairly healthy place.

2490. Do you think that the sewage and the water supply is very defective there?—Most defective; as defective as possible.

2491. And you would desire, as being responsible for the Crown property that something should be done to remedy that state of things in a place where the Crown is largely interested?—Oh, certainly.

Chairman.

2492. The ruling principle which guides you in managing the New Forest is, I understand, not in carrying on a profitable business, but the preservation of its ornamental beauty, and converting it, so to speak, as a public part?—So I understand.

Mr. FREDERICK HELLARD, again called in; and further Examined.

Chairman.

2503. You now hand in the correspondence which you promised to furnish to the Committee which passed between your department and the Treasury with reference to the receivers keeping

distinct banking accounts, do you not?—Yes. (*The Correspondence was handed in, see Appendix.*)

Mr. RALPH CLUTTON, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

2504. You are in partnership with your father, John Clutton, are you not?—Yes.

2505. I am sorry to hear that he is too unwell to attend. Have you yourself personal knowledge of the Crown property?—I have no personal knowledge of the farm lands at all. I have some knowledge of the accounts and of the details in connection with that part of the business and the holding land to a certain extent. Beyond that I have no general knowledge.

2506. Any questions relating to general
0.103.

Chairman—continued.

2493. And you are administering it upon that basis?—I endeavour to do so.

Mr. Jackson.

2494. Because you think you have no power to administer it in any other way, I take it?—I have not gone further than the instructions as to the duties I have to perform under the Act.

2495. But in pursuing that policy, you pursue that policy, as I understand, because you believe you have no power to pursue any other policy?—Certainly.

Sir William Harcourt.

2496. That was the policy of the Committee of 1875 and the Act of 1877, was it not?—Certainly.

Mr. Heneage.

2497. Have you any instructions from the Commissioners, apart from the Act, as to their opinion of the Act; that is to say, as to how far you have any discretion?—No.

2498. Are you acting under any written instructions?—I act in all matters under the instructions of the Commissioners. I refer each case that may arise to them. I do not remember receiving any special general instructions on that point.

Chairman.

2499. The Committee has received a letter from the verderers. Have you anything to say with reference to the position of the verderers, or their rights, or grounds of complaint?—No, I have nothing to say on that subject.

2500. You want to raise nothing about the verderers?—No, nothing at all.

2501. They ask permission to attend if anything is raised with reference to them?—I have nothing to raise affecting the verderers.

2502. And you have no suggestion to make in respect to them?—No, I have nothing to say at all as to the verderers.

Chairman—continued.

distinct banking accounts, do you not?—Yes. (*The Correspondence was handed in, see Appendix.*)

Chairman—continued.

management we should have to ask your father about when he is better?—Yes.

2507. Will you then shortly state to the Committee what is the mode in which the rents are received and paid over?—The rents are received in this way. Notice is sent to the tenants on all the estates of the dates fixed for the rent audit. Some rents are received at those audits, some before, and some after.

2508. You hold two rent audits a year, I suppose?—Two rent audits a year on all the agricultural
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MR. RALPH CLUTTON.

[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

cultural estates, and where they are purely building estates only one, and in some cases now that is not found necessary; where the tenants almost entirely pay by cheque, they have been discontinued in one or two small cases, but taking it generally there are two rent audits held a year on each estate.

2509. Who attends those rent audits?—Either my father, one of my brothers, or myself, in almost all cases. It does sometimes happen that we have to send one of the principal clerks, but as a rule we endeavour (one of us) to attend.

2510. I suppose these audits are generally held in some one of the principal towns of the county?—Yes, generally the market town, as being more convenient to the tenants.

2511. When rent is paid, just tell the Committee how you transmit it?—When the rents are paid to us they are paid into the separate Crown account, which is kept at our bankers. If they are paid in cheques then as soon as those cheques are cleared a cheque is drawn and handed over to the Office of Woods, and that balance is paid over as soon as possible. As soon as we get it in our bank-book and know that the cheques are cleared, we immediately draw against the account, leaving a small balance, as we are obliged to do and are authorised to do, with which to pay current outgoings.

2512. Where the rent is paid in cash (I suppose the farmers, or a good many of them, would pay in cash) what do you do then?—It is brought to London and paid into the bank the next morning.

2513. In cash?—Yes.

2514. Then, in fact, there is no country bank at all intervenes?—Not now. In former years we used to pay in and take a bill from the bankers in the country, but that we have discontinued now; it is all paid direct into the account.

2515. It is paid into the Crown account at Messrs. Martin's?—Yes.

2516. Subject to a certain amount being retained you pay that over to the Commissioners?—Yes.

2517. Do you pay it to the account of Mr. Higgins, as Receiver, or to the account of the Commissioners at the Bank of England?—Sometimes one and sometimes the other.

2518. Why do not you have one uniform rule?—I am told that the reason is that sometimes it is more convenient to ourselves to send it into the office to Mr. Higgins because the clerk from the Bank of England is going to call there to receive their monies, and he takes the cheque and pays it in. But as a matter of principle it is paid into the Bank of England.

2519. Your rule would be to pay it into the bank to your own account?—Yes.

2520. The other would be the exception?—The other would be the exception, and would only be done as a matter of convenience.

2521. And except as a matter of convenience, there is no reason for that exception?—There is no reason for it.

2522. It would be no trouble for you to make every payment to the Bank of England direct,

Chairman—continued.

would it?—No; it is simply a question of sending to the Bank; purely a question of convenience.

2523. Your account at Messrs. Martin's presume, is kept upon the usual London principle of no commission charged, and no interest allowed?—Exactly; we have never had any percent from our bankers ever since we have banked with them.

2524. There is no profit therefore to you any way on the keeping that account?—Profit whatever; our whole policy has always been to pay over to the Crown Account at Bank of England as quickly as we possibly could; because it is obvious that as long as money is at our bankers it is at our risk, and sooner we get rid of it, the sooner we get rid of the risk.

2525. Assuming that an arrangement made between you and the Commissioners that certain sum should be retained by you, kept your credit for the purpose of small current payments; would there be any objection or difficulty in your paying direct your receipts to the Bank of England, without the intervention of any other banking account?—I want to quite clearly understand your meaning.

2526. Have you any suggestion to make reference to any improvement in the mode of keeping the banking account?—I think my mode is very well as it is; but if any alteration is to be made, the best mode of doing it would be by transferring the whole account to the Bank of England, and keeping a separate Crown account in the Receiver's name at the Bank of England.

2527. You would draw upon that account for your current expenses?—Yes.

2528. And then you would from time to time transfer from that drawing account to the Commissioners' general account, the balance?—Yes.

2529. The whole of the money would, in every case go into the Bank of England direct in the first instance?—Yes.

2530. Do you employ any receivers under you for the purpose of receiving any of the rents?—No, all Crown rents are received by us.

2531. If the tenants do not pay at the office the remittance is then made to you, I suppose by letter?—Yes, by letter.

2532. The only other part of the business of the Corporation you have any cognizance of is the building land?—Quite so.

2533. Where is that building land?—Widely scattered. Some at Eltham, Dover, some at Ascot (not a large quantity), Hastings is all built upon. I think those are the principal places.

2534. What is your general rule as to the letting of Crown building land? Is it let by tender, let by auction, or let by private contract?—Let by private contract. Boards are put up "To Let," and, of course, roads, sewers, &c. so on are laid out, I mean designed. Then the demand comes so we deal with individual applicants, and report to the Commissioner.

2535. And you think that is the best way in your experience?—In my experience that is the best way; that is the way we deal with all considerable estates.

2536. Do not the Corporation of London

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Mr. RALPH CLUTTON.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

their building land by tenders always?—and that might apply, and does apply, and good way of proceeding sometimes in the of London, where there is no question the land being absolutely ripe for build- and suitable for a great many different es, and where there are a great many desirous of taking it: there it can be but where you have got a large quan- building land in various stages of deve- it is a very expensive, and not, in my , a very desirable way of dealing with g land; because you get people tendering ve not sufficient capital to carry out their ons.

If you had a portion of an estate to you thought that principle applied, you adopt it?—Yes.

But the principle that you adopt you it is the best on the whole?—Yes.

And you have been satisfied with its —Yes.

When an applicant comes to you for a ng lease or a building agreement is he ed to any charge or fee?—When he or building land, do you mean?

Not when he applies, but when it is him. All expenses are put upon the r lessee, are they not?—As far as the is concerned the only charge which is n the lessee is a charge for approving s of the buildings to be erected. That which is fixed in the terms of agreement. present time the ordinary course in or ndon (anywhere near London) is to fix m equal to the fee paid to the District r under the Metropolis Building Act.

That fee is handed over by you to the sioners, is it?—No.

I understood that it was?—Oh, no, that rained.

That fee is retained by you?—That is by us.

Mr. Jackson.

It is a fixed fee, is it not?—It is a fixed it is reported.

Chairman.

Those are the fees that Colonel Kings- us were reported to him?—Yes.

An applicant or lessee pays nothing else —Nothing else.

And when you have fixed the terms of g, I suppose it passes into the solicitors' ent, and you have done with it?—When fixed the term we report it to the Com- and then it goes into the solicitors' ent, to draw the legal agreement, and course, we have to revise or to peruse cement to see that the terms are correct, e that it is carried out when executed.

But you have nothing to do with any property in London or Middlesex, have ot in Middlesex.

And you do not know about the letting gricultural farms, so I will not ask you at?—No, I do not.

Mr. Jackson.

2551. With regard to the pass-books which have been produced, I think those are the books which you have there?—Yes, these are the books.

2552. The payments appear to be made over the whole period of the year; is that because the tenancies expire at different dates, or is it due partly or mainly to the fact that the tenants do not appear at the time the rent is due?—Mainly, because they do not pay at the time it is due. We have to get the rents as we can. I mean we have to make, in some cases, repeated applica- tions, and then we only get a portion, perhaps, of the rent. Then we get it as well as we can through the year; especially in these later years of agricultural depression, it has been very diffi- cult to get those rents paid any thing like punc- tually.

2553. Then you get them in instalments, or in any way you can from time to time?—In instal- ments, and in any way we can get them, and the sooner we can get them the better.

2554. And the same, I suppose, with arrears? Yes.

2555. What determines the question of whether a man shall be allowed an extended time for the payment or be allowed to pay by instalments; is it merely your knowledge of his general position and condition?—Our knowledge of his circum- stances, and his ability to pay. We have to use our discretion about that; as to how much a tenant should be pressed, and how much leniency should be exercised towards him.

2556. I suppose it is not always desirable, or not always expedient at all events, to press a tenant if you think he is a good tenant for the farm?—Certainly, it would be a very in Expedient thing to press him too severely. If you do that you will lose your tenant.

Chairman.

2557. Can you give us the detail of the pay- ments you have to make to any sub-agents. We understood, from Colonel Kingscote, that the remuneration which appeared in the accounts as paid to your firm was a gross payment?— Yes.

2558. And that there were certain allowances or certain payments which you had to make out of it, and Colonel Kingscote suggested I think that we should ask you (or Mr. Clutton) when you came into the box, what those deductions were?—I have got it out as accurately as I can. Of course a great many of the items have to be taken as an estimate, because the clerks which are employed, are employed partly on Crown work, and partly on other work in the office, so we have had to estimate the proportion that is due to Crown work, and the proportion that is due to other work, as also we have had to take the general office expenses, rent, rates, taxes, and so on. Those have to be apportioned in the same way; and that with travelling and altogether, amounts to something over 4,000 £. a year.

Mr. Jackson.

2559. Out of a total of how much?—Out of a total of 5,000 £. On the average of three years up to March 1889, the average gross receipt was

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5,076 £., Digitized by Google

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Mr. RALPH CLUTTON.

[Chairman]

Mr. Jackson—continued.

5,076 l., and the annual outgoings were 4,078 l., leaving a nett income of something under a 1,000 l. a year. In that I have charged nothing, of course, for my father's time, or for the time of any of the members of the firm.

Chairman.

2560. Can you just give us the details of that?—Yes. Clerks' salaries, proportion due to the Crown, 3,050 l.; travelling expenses, 447 l. (that is an absolute amount), proportion of rents, rates, and taxes, 100 l.; other office expenses, 250 l., and charges paid to Messrs. Grantham for executing drainage works and so on, 231 l., making the total of 4,078 l.

2561. The only disputable item there is the clerks?—Quite so.

2562. How many clerks does that 3,000 l. represent?—It represents a great many clerks, because their whole time is not occupied on Crown work. You see the office for our own purposes has to be divided into different sections, with different clerks doing different work.

Mr. Jackson.

2563. Different kinds of work?—Different kinds of work. The work is done in different departments. There is one room in which the clerks are almost entirely, with one very small exception, engaged upon the Crown work; then when you come to the drawing office where the plans are done for the buildings, the cash-room, where the cash accounts are kept, and those sort of items, we are obliged to apportion them, because only a portion of the time is occupied on Crown work. In some cases the time occupied on Crown work amounts to something like nine-tenths of their time. Then in other cases it gets down to a ninth or a tenth, a very small proportion of some people's time; so that I am afraid I cannot do anything more accurate than that.

Chairman.

2564. The Crown work is first mainly the receipt of the rents?—Yes.

2565. Then, secondly, it is the management as agent of the agricultural properties?—Yes.

2566. There is a large staff of agents paid as well?—Clerks of the works, of buildings, and bailiffs in charge of farms in hand. I think those are the only extra.

Mr. Heneage.

2567. Are there no sub-agents?—No sub-agents.

Chairman.

2568. There are large payments to sub-agents, I think?—I think you will find they are only clerks of the works and bailiffs.

2569. How much does that come to?—I am afraid I have not got the figures.

2570. It is included in this return, about 1,500 l. a-year, I see. I suppose a fair proportion of those are under you, are not they?—Yes, probably the larger proportion of those I should think.

2571. Local people?—They are bailiffs in charge of farms in hand.

2572. For the moment I want to exclude

Chairman—continued.

farms in hand. We have heard from C. Kingscote that there are only 1,100 acres in. I want to keep out that altogether. The agents locally supervise the properties do they?—There are no local agents properly called. I have here a list which has been put into my hand showing all the different people that are employed. There is the Hitchin manor for instance?—There is a steward appointed there to look after the manor.

Mr. Jackson.

2573. Are these people appointed by you or by the Woods and Forests Office?—They are appointed and paid by the Office, and the accounts come through us. They are not paid by us, but paid by the Office.

2574. Appointed by the Office and paid by the Office?—Appointed by the Office and paid by the Office.

Mr. Heneage.

2575. But responsible to you?—Yes, responsible to us undoubtedly. There is a steward who is paid 10 l. a year on the Hitchin manor, Portland Manor, Deputy Steward and who looks after the manor. I think C. Kingscote gave it in evidence that my father was steward of most of these manors absolutely no profit as steward. He got no emoluments at all as steward.

Chairman.

2576. I am not talking now about the management; what I want to get at is the work. —Then there is Hampton Court Manor, of the Manor; Richmond the same; Egham the same; there is a woodman at Salcey; then go on again with a whole list of manors, and others.

2577. You meant these are practically payments which do not represent a payment to anybody who is capable of managing the agricultural land, and that they have to come to you?—That is so. All work which requires responsibility or advice comes to my father. He is responsible for it, and he has no authority under him whether paid by the Crown (certainly not paid by the Crown) or not, responsible for any advice.

2578. That department of your profession is conducted either by your father, by you, or by your brother?—Yes.

2579. What have these clerks to do with it?—You say cost about 3,000 l. a year, beyond conducting the correspondence, and, of course, in the receipt of the rents?—Some of them are practical surveyors who assist us in our work. Of course we cannot personally see to the detail of the work. We are obliged to employ a large staff of competent surveyors to assist in doing the work which we advise upon.

2580. Is your work any different from any other nobleman's estate?—No, it is the same thing. Of course there is more of it. The question of amount.

2581. I am not talking about the management. You simply deal, practically, with an agricultural estate, and with the building land which is mentioned to us just now?—Yes.

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MR. RALPH CLUTTON.

[Chairman.]

Chairman—continued.

2582. There is nothing else you have to deal with. Now is there anything exceptional in the management of this agricultural estate different from what there would be on the estate of Duke of Bedford, the Duke of Northumberland, or any other large landowner?—Except it is scattered over a large number of estates and a large area. It is scattered, but not each individual estate, of course they are larger estates to numbers of others in the country. It is only the accumulation of them that makes the difference.

2583. Can you separate what you call the surveying from the clerical department?—I am not sure I cannot.

Mr. Jackson.

2584. You have told us the amount which you estimate as what I may call the payments out of pocket, out of the gross sum which is received by the office; and the office expenses are necessarily, I suppose, apportioned to the best of your judgment?—Yes.

2585. Would it be proper for you to tell us the basis upon which that apportionment has been made. I will make clear what I mean. Do not answer the question if you would rather not. I mean, as to whether it is an apportionment of the clerk's work made on the basis of the profit earned by the office or on the basis of the work which is done by the office as a whole?—It is made upon the basis of the work which is done by the office as a whole. I may say that I got this statement out (I have revised it some years ago for our own information) from the office, and apportioned the different expenses in the office to the different estates and different clients, to ascertain the position in which the work was going on, and this is practically the same estimate as I then made for our information.

2586. Worked out on the same basis?—Worked out on the same basis. Of course, subject to correction up to date.

2587. And I suppose the surveyors; the men whom you employ in your office, deal with all the applications where there are applications for repairs, alterations or drainage?—Yes, they do all the preliminary work up to a point, and then my clerk takes it up, and does the final decision; he has to have practical men to bring it up to a point to assist him, or he could not get through the work.

2588. Would the preliminary work include surveying and inspecting the site?—Visiting the estates, no doubt. Of course, until this year my clerk always went to all the estates himself, at least once a year, and, of course, if it came near his visits, he would look at it himself; but if not, he would send a clerk down to report on the locality.

2589. In your judgment, so far as you are able to make an estimate, the net result is, that you do not get more than 1,000 l. a year profit out of the management of these estates?—That is our estimate of it, and that is our view of what it is worth.

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Chairman.

2590. Then you would not object to an arrangement which gave you a salary of 1,500 l. a year, and provided you with all the clerical staff?—No, certainly not.

Mr. Heneage.

2591. As I understand you, your father and yourself and your brothers are a firm?—Yes.

2592. What other business do you carry on besides the Crown business?—We are surveyors to a number of private clients and also to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England.

2593. What portion of the time of your firm (I suppose I may treat it as one) is taken up with the Crown lands?—I really cannot say as far as my own time is concerned.

2594. Then on what principle did you calculate what portion of the work of those engaged in the office was due to the Crown, and what portion was due to other work. Upon what principle did you make that calculation?—That I can get at. For our own purposes we have returns made day by day, and week by week, of all the work done in the office by all the different clerks, and those returns go into separate books of our own, some relating to one set of estates and some to another, and in that way I can get at approximately the amount of time occupied over the Crown lands and the time occupied over the others.

2595. That is what I asked?—I understood your question to apply to the time of the members of the firm, and that I cannot give you. You see I have charged nothing for the members of the firm in this account, and that is very much more difficult to get at, because we do not, and it is not necessary that we should, make a return of our own time for ourselves.

2596. You do not think the same principle on which the account has been made out with regard to the office generally would apply to the members of the firm?—I hope that we have got some other business which is more profitable than this.

2597. Then this 1,000 l. a year profit is only an item in the business you conduct; it is not your largest item?—I hope not.

2598. In answer to the Chairman you stated you considered you conducted the supervision of the estates in the same way as any other nobleman's agent. As a matter of fact you supply all the sub-agents, and other persons who advise with regard to plans, to building, to drainage, to supervision of the farms, and every other purpose, do not you?—Yes, we supply everything.

2599. But that is not usual in the case of an agent, is it, on any other large estate?—It is the way we conduct all our agencies. I mean all the estates that we manage are managed on that principle.

2600. I am only saying it is not the principle upon which, as a rule, head agents of large estates do conduct their business?—I know, in a great many cases, it is done in the other way, the agent being paid a fixed sum, and the owner supplying all the staff to do the work.

2601. And having head foresters, head drainers, and others under them who are paid independently?—Yes. I did not understand the question of the Chairman, if I did answer in that way.

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Mr. RALPH CLUTTON.

[Continued]

Mr. Heneage—continued.

way. What I understood him to ask me was this: whether the Crown estates differed materially in their nature and characteristics from other estates; not as to the way in which they were managed.

2602. The consequence is that you have a great deal more expenditure than an ordinary agent would have, when we come to look at your receipts?—Yes.

2603. Colonel Kingscote, in answer to Question 1338, gave a list of the receipts of your firm from 1875 to 1885; for the years 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1880, I find that you average, roughly speaking, 6,500 *l.* a year?—Yes.

2604. In 1881, you only received 5,729 *l.*; what is the reason for that alteration?—I think, probably the explanation of that is, that the farm-rents, about that period, began to get reduced very much, large allowances were made, and therefore the commission on the rents was reduced in proportion.

2605. In the years 1882, 1883, and 1884, it rose again to an average of 6,500 *l.* a year, so that there is one year of 5,729 *l.* out of those 10 years, the remainder of which averaged 6,500 *l.*?—In that year it happened that the charges beyond commission, the charges on special bills for work done, amounted to 1,697 *l.* or 1,700 *l.*, as against 2,300 *l.* in the years on each side of it. You see that accounts for 600 *l.* difference. Of course the bills of charges are a very variable quantity. I mean it depends upon the work which has to be done; the work that is specially charged for.

2606. Then, in 1888, the receipts were 5,200 *l.*, or less even than in 1881?—Yes.

2607. There had been a fresh arrangement in the meantime, had there not?—There was no alteration in the percentage, but only an alteration in the mode of calculating it.

2608. What was the alteration?—The alteration was as to whether it was to be taken on the rents or on the receipts.

2609. On the nominal rental or on the receipts?—On the rental or on the receipts.

2610. Then up to that period had there been no reductions in the rents?—There had been reductions in the rents before that date. The reductions in the rents led to the question being raised, I believe, and the alteration being made.

2611. When did you first begin to give permanent reductions in your rents?—I am afraid I cannot answer that question. It is not within my knowledge exactly.

Mr. Heneage—continued.

2612. Up to that time they had been reduced but not abatements, or reductions?—Yes.

2613. What amount of your receipts, in experience, do you suppose you receive in as a rule?—I cannot tell you.

2614. Is it a very considerable amount?—In audits we receive a considerable amount of the rents that are received at the office and largely in cash.

Mr. Hobhouse.

2615. What is the total amount of the connected with your office?—The total receipts about 80,000 *l.* I cannot give you the exact figure but it was given by Colonel Kingscote; in 1837 I think you will find it. He puts it at about 80,000 *l.*

2616. And the total cost to the office collection during the last 10 years has averaged between 6,000 *l.* and 7,000 *l.*?—That includes the whole of the charges.

2617. The figure you gave just now, gross receipts, was about 5,000 *l.*?—5,000 *l.*; yes.

2618. That was not based upon the gross receipts of the last 10 years was it the last three years. That was on the average up to the 31st March this year.

2619. For the three years preceding the three years preceding.

2620. Does that represent fairly the present future gross receipts as far as you can tell?—I should say it has been decreasing, but whether it will go on decreasing or not I cannot say.

2621. It depends really upon the rental?—It depends really upon the rental. It is entirely upon that, because, of course, if cultural matters mended, we should have less trouble in doing the work than we have now. It would not cost us so much to do the work if the rents went up the percentage would be larger.

Mr. Heneage.

2622. Did not you use the word “rent” by mistake; you meant the rent they paid, not?—Yes, the rents received.

Mr. Hobhouse.

2623. It is really payment of commission on the rents actually received?—Yes.

Tuesday, 9th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir Joseph Bailey.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Charles Hall.

Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Samuelson.

MR. JACKSON, IS THE CHAIR.

Mr. ARTHUR CATES, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

2624. You are employed by the Commissioners of Woods as architect and surveyor in relation to the management of the Crown estates in London, I believe?—I am.

2625. And you are an architect by profession?—I am.

2626. Where do you carry on business?—At No. 7, Whitehall-yard.

2627. You carry on other businesses than that connected with the Department of Woods and Forests, do you not?—My principal business is that connected with the Department of Woods and Forests; my private practice is now comparatively small.

2628. And you are a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, are you not?—I am.

2629. And have you held various positions in connection with the council of that body?—I have.

2630. Do you wish to state them to the Committee?—I am now one of the vice-presidents of that body and chairman of the professional practice committee of the council; chairman of the board of examiners in architecture since its establishment in 1882; and vice-chairman of the standing committee on practice.

2631. You are also a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institution?—I am.

2632. When did your employment as architect and surveyor of the Woods and Forests Office commence?—It originated from a letter addressed to me by the then commissioner, Mr. Charles Gore, on the 8th September 1870, of which I hand in a copy.

2633. Is this the letter of your appointment? Yes. Perhaps I had better read it; it makes the matter clear.

"Office of Woods, &c., S.W.,
"8 September 1870.

"Sir,

"In consequence of the recent abolition of the office of salaried architect and surveyor to the Offices of Woods and Works, I have been in communication with the Lords of the Treasury

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Chairman—continued.

"as to the manner in which the duties hitherto performed by Mr. Pennethorne, in connection with the Crown estate in my charge in London, are in future to be provided for.

"Their Lordships have authorised me to employ a surveyor to perform those duties, or such of them as I may think proper, upon certain terms and conditions. I enclose a copy of their Lordships' letter of the 31st ult., and I have to inform you that I shall be ready to employ you in conformity with that authority, upon the terms and conditions there specified, with the proviso that the notice referred to in the last paragraph is to be three months from any date. I enclose a copy of the scale of remuneration which I propose for all ordinary services; any cases not there provided for will be paid according to the usual professional rate. I shall be glad to hear from you at your early convenience whether you are willing to accept employment on these conditions.

"I am, &c.

(signed) "Charles Gore."

The Treasury letter that was enclosed with that communication is dated the 31st August 1870. It is addressed to the Commissioners of Woods, and is as follows:—

"Treasury Chambers,
31 August 1870.

"Sir.

"The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them your report of the 30th June last, on the subject of provision being made for the performance of the duties lately discharged by Mr. Pennethorne, as architect and surveyor to your department.

"Their Lordships desire me to state that they concur in your proposal to employ some surveyor of reputation and ability, in general practice, and accustomed to deal with house property in London, to perform these duties, to be paid by bills for such services as he may be called upon to render, and to be employed on the two following conditions:

"(1.) That he shall not during his employment

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

"ment undertake any private professional business relating to any Crown property in charge of your department.

"(2.) That the Commissioner of Woods in charge of the Crown's London estate shall be at liberty at any time to employ any other architect or surveyor in relation to any matter upon that estate or elsewhere.

"My Lords desire that it may also be expressly notified to the person employed that the above conditions do not constitute an engagement, but are simply those on which the business of the Crown is given to him.

"Nothing but simple notice will be necessary to end the arrangement, and no claim for compensation thereon will under any circumstances be admitted.

"I am, &c..
(signed) "William Law."

2634. And you replied to that letter, accepting the employment, did you?—I did, with the modification of one item in the scale.

2635. Will you inform the Committee what are the various services performed by you in connection with the management of these estates?—The services are limited to the estates in London, and they comprise the general duties involved in such management: first, letting houses on repairing leases; advising as to the re-letting of houses the leases of which are about to expire; making surveys and valuations of such houses, negotiating with tenants or intending lessees the terms for new leases; settling the agreements for letting, perusing the draft lease, and settling with the parties any questions thereon; settling the nature and extent of the repairs to be executed, and advising on the drawings and specifications submitted; superintending the execution of the repairs, certifying as to the amount of expenditure and the execution of the work to entitle the lessee to the grant of the lease; and generally advising on all questions which may arise in relation to the property.

2636. That relates to the letting of houses on repairing leases?—Yes.

2637. Do you also deal with the question of letting building sites?—Yes, largely.

2638. And can you tell the Committee your duties in connection with that department of the work?—Advising as to the necessity or expediency of pulling down old houses, clearing the sites, and letting for new buildings to be erected thereon; making the survey of site, conducting all negotiations for letting, whether by private contract or public tender; advising on the terms to be required and the covenants to be inserted in the agreements and leases; advising on the designs submitted for new buildings, and on the detailed drawings and specifications; superintending the execution of the new buildings, and reporting on their completion; making surveys of buildings when completed, and drawing detailed plans on leases and counterparts, and generally conducting all negotiations and performing all duties incidental to the letting and rebuilding.

2639. Do you deal also with the question of the sale of old materials and fixtures?—When

Chairman—continued.

old materials are to be sold I make an arrangement with the auctioneer; settling the course of procedure, attend the sale and certifying the result, and the auctioneer's accounts, and settle all questions arising out of the proceedings.

2640. Do you deal also with the question of sales of property?—Yes; I conduct negotiations with public bodies who have acquired Parliamentary powers to purchase, value the properties, and when the question is referred to arbitration, attend the arbitration and supply the valuation on behalf the Crown.

2641. Do you deal with the purchase of property?—Yes; considerable properties are purchased in London; and in those cases I survey and value the properties proposed to be purchased; and if of a questionable nature, negotiate the terms of purchase, and perform the incidental duties up to the completion of purchase.

2642. Does that include the purchase of ground-rents?—It does.

2643. Do you deal with the question of lapidations to Crown property?—When the questions arise it is my duty to survey and value them, and settle all questions arising thereout.

2644. And in the event of fire, do you deal with questions of that nature?—I watch the works of reinstatement, and certify the completion of the works, and advise upon all questions arising from those circumstances.

2645. And what do you do in relation to the question of alterations?—The question of alterations is frequently arising, and my duty is to consider and advise on applications for permission to make such alterations, and confer with the applicants and their architects, and deal with all the several questions which arise.

2646. The applications coming, I suppose, from the tenants or the occupiers?—From occupying tenants. Those applications are very numerous, particularly in Regent-street.

2647. Have you anything to do with the accounts payable by the Commissioners of Woods in relation to the London Estate?—That is a very small item indeed. The accounts generally are for charges for the supply of gas, which is repaid to the Commissioners, the management of the Bessborough-gardens, the hoarding and slinging, and incidental work of that kind.

2648. That is not a matter of much consequence?—It is of very small consequence indeed.

2649. Have you anything to do with questions relating to Bills in Parliament affecting Crown property?—Yes; all Bills that affect Crown property in London are referred to me for consideration and report.

2650. And you advise the Commissioners?—I advise the Commissioners, and where necessary I communicate with the promoters, advise as to the modifications and clauses that should be inserted; or the terms and conditions that form the basis of an agreement with promoters.

2651. Now, can you give us the terms of appointment, and the scale of charges which were then agreed upon?—The scale of charges

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

s contained in this document which I will hand n.

2652. Will you just state shortly what it is, so that the Committee may understand it?— This was the scale which accompanied Mr. Gore's letter to me of 8th September 1870 :—

"SCALE of Charges for Services performed by
"the Architect employed in the Office of
"Woods, &c., for the Ordinary Business.

"1. For surveying, valuing, and reporting particulars of houses and buildings in London proposed to be granted on repairing leases, and for reconsidering and revising such valuations and reports with reference to any special matter of instruction as occasion shall require, and for negotiating and arranging terms with persons desirous to take such leases. Also for taking the requisite admeasurements, laying down to scale, and making any plans required to accompany reports, and one set of fair plans (in duplicate) on skins for agreements or leases there shall be allowed :—

	For a single house and its offices, and a stack or range of buildings.	For any additional number of adjacent houses or buildings comprised in the same survey, and not exceeding nine each.	And for any additional number of such houses or buildings.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
When the computed net yearly rent at which the premises shall be let by the Crown shall not exceed 50 l. —	9 9 -	5 12 -	4 14 6
shall be above—			
50 l. and not exceed 100 l. -	10 10 -	6 6 -	5 5 -
100 l. " " 200 l. -	13 13 -	8 5 -	6 14 6
200 l. " " 300 l. -	16 16 -	10 3 -	8 8 -
300 l. " " 400 l. -	18 18 -	11 11 -	9 9 -
400 l. " " 500 l. -	21 - -	13 - -	10 10 -
500 l. " " 750 l. -	26 5 -	—	—
750 l. " " 1,000 l. -	29 8 -	—	—

"When the survey shall comprise several
"houses or buildings of different values,
"those of highest value to be rated first.

"The charge to be payable on the
"execution of the lease.

"2. In cases where houses or buildings shall, upon survey, be found unfit to be granted on repairing leases, or where any improvement shall be proposed to be effected by the removal of old houses or buildings and a different appropriation of the sites thereof, or by the erection of new buildings on new grounds.

"For surveying such houses, buildings,
"and ground, measuring, planning, and
"valuing the new building sites, preparing
"all designs, elevations, estimates, and reports
"thereon which shall be required, nego-
0.103.

Chairman—continued.

"tiating with applicants for leases of the
"premises, advising on the covenants proper
"to be entered into by the builders and
"lessees; staking out the ground when let,
"adjusting any differences which may arise
"with the owners or tenants of adjacent
"premises in regard to party-walls, boun-
"daries, sewage, &c.; superintending the
"execution of the new buildings during
"their progress, inserting in the leases and
"counterparts admeasured plans of the
"premises to be demised, and generally for
"superintending and directing all other
"works incidental to the execution of the
"intended improvements, and for all other
"professional assistance which shall be
"required of the architect in the course of
"the official proceedings arising there-
"from.

"There shall be allowed a compensation
"equal to the amount of one-half of the
"sums reserved to the Crown as the full
"yearly rent of the premises, exclusive of
"land tax, where the same shall not have
"been previously redeemed; one moiety of
"such compensation to be payable on the
"execution of the agreement in each case,
"the other moiety on the execution of the
"lease, where there are more leases than one
"one-fourth of the final rent reserved by each
"lease, is to be paid on the execution of such
"lease.

"3. For preparing particulars and valuations
"of the fixtures and materials of buildings and
"erections proposed to be taken down, selling
"the same by private contract or tender, and
"superintending the removal thereof.

"There shall be allowed a compensation
"at and after the rate of 5 l. per cent. on
"the net proceeds of such sale. In cases
"where such fixtures and materials shall be
"sold by auction, the allowance shall be 1½
"per cent.

"For preparing reports, plans, designs, speci-
"fications, and estimates, and all necessary work-
"men's drawings for buildings and works pro-
"posed to be executed at the expense of the
"Crown; for advising on the contracts entered
"into with parties to be employed in the con-
"struction of the works; for directing the re-
"moval of any old buildings there may be on the
"site of the new works, staking out the founda-
"tions, and superintending and directing the
"progress of the new works until their comple-
"tion, and for the due examination of the artifi-
"cers' bills for the same, and for the transaction
"of all other professional business incidental to
"the service.

"There shall be allowed a commission of
"5 per cent. on the amount of the expendi-
"ture on such buildings or works, and a set
"of drawings, consisting of the elevations
"and ground plan of each storey, plan of the
"drainage and the sections, are to be de-
"posited in this office on the completion of
"the works.

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"4. In

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

"4. In cases of repairing leases for superintending the execution of the repairs, and certifying that the amount agreed to be expended by the lessee in the execution of such repairs has been laid out, and that the repairs have been completed in accordance with the approved drawings and specifications, so as to entitle the lessee to the grant of the lease.

"There shall be allowed:—

	Commission upon the Sum Expended.
When the sum expended shall not exceed 200 <i>l.</i> - - - -	2 per cent.
Shall be above 200 <i>l.</i> but not exceed 1,000 <i>l.</i> - - - -	1½ ditto.
Shall be above 1,000 <i>l.</i> - - - -	1 ditto.

"5. For valuations for sale, purchase or exchange there shall be allowed—

"For the first 1,000 *l.* - 1 per cent.
 "For the next 4,000 *l.* - ½ "
 "For the next 15,000 *l.* - ⅓ "
 "For further sums - ¼ "

"with one-third added in any cases where the sale, purchase or exchange is negotiated by the architect, and any plans to be charged.

"6. For estimating dilapidations—

"For the first 500 *l.* - 2½ per cent.
 "For further sum - 1½ "

"That was the item in which I made an alteration. It now stands—

"For the first 500 *l.* - 5 per cent.
 "For further sums - 2½ "

"with a minimum charge of 2 *l.* 2 *s.*

"7. For watching and certifying the reinstatement of premises after a fire—

"For the first 500 *l.* paid by the insurance office, or estimated outlay on reinstatement - 2 per cent.
 "For further sums - 1 "

"8. For drawing plans in duplicate (other than those hereinbefore provided for) on skins for leases, &c., 2 *l.* 2 *s.*

"9. For reporting upon application for permission to make alterations 1 *l.* 1 *s.* for each house and upwards, according to the trouble involved in each case.

"10. For certifying as to the accuracy of accounts payable by the Crown referred to him for examination, 5 per cent. upon the amount of the accounts.

"These charges to include personal attendances on the Commissioner at the Office of Woods in relation to any of the

Chairman—continued.

"premises or matters for which the charges are made.

"Office of Woods, 5 September 1870."

2653. Has there been any modification of the terms of appointment since that time?—Yes, there has been a modification with reference to what has been called the Employment of the Government Surveyor, with reference to transactions between the Office of Woods and the Office of Works, my charges for which have not been commuted within a certain limit by annual payment of 60 *l.*

2654. Does the annual payment of 60 *l.* cover the services rendered by you in all cases which occur between the Offices of Woods and Works?—It does so.

2655. Irrespective of the amount?—Irrespective of the amount within a certain limit which if I recollect right, is 75,000 *l.*

2656. Can you tell the Committee what is the amount of transactions of that kind which take place?—No, I am not prepared to do that.

2657. There are not very many of them, I suppose?—The communications are frequent. The letting of Crown houses for the public service to the Office of Works is the most important; for instance, recently the letting in Pall Mall of Buckingham House and other houses in Pall Mall for the War Department.

2658. Have you a list of the amounts which have been paid to you by the Woods and Forests in recent years; that is to say, the amount of bills?—Yes. I have a statement here of the amounts which I have received in connection with Crown property under the charge of Colonel Kingsford for each of the years from 1880 to 1888.

2659. Will you read them to the Committee, or state what they are, just shortly; is the amount stated in one year?—I will give the total received by me for each year. In the year 1880 my gross receipts were 2,543 *l.* 16 *s.* 10 *d.*; in the year 1881, 3,311 *l.* 12 *s.* 1 *d.*; in 1882, 2,436 *l.* 6 *s.* 7 *d.*; in 1883, 4,277 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.*; in 1884, 5,809 *l.* 2 *s.* 1 *d.*; in 1885, 5,407 *l.* 17 *s.* 3 *d.*; in 1886, 2,902 *l.* 15 *s.* 1 *d.*; in 1887, 2,704 *l.* 3 *s.* 9 *d.*; and in 1888, 2,165 *l.* 19 *s.* 3 *d.* That was the total of receipts; but the total of my bills is a different amount, because that total of receipts includes certain fees which are payable to me upon the grant of building leases.

2660. I do not quite understand that. You give the Committee the total amount of bills?—The total amount of the bills sent to the Office of Woods was in—

	£.	s.	d.
1880 - - - -	2,504	13	10
1881 - - - -	3,224	6	1
1882 - - - -	2,278	16	7
1883 - - - -	4,115	5	2
1884 - - - -	5,440	19	1
1885 - - - -	5,308	17	3
1886 - - - -	2,676	5	6
1887 - - - -	2,612	13	9
1888 - - - -	2,058	6	9

2661. And what makes the difference between what you have just given to the Committee and the previous amounts which you read out?—Certain fees payable to me under building leases, on the grant of building leases.

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

2662. And are those fees payable to you by lessees or by the tenants?—They are paid by lessees under the terms of the agreement.

2663. Are they paid to you directly by the lessees or the tenants, or are they paid to you through the Office of Woods?—They are paid to directly.

2664. Are there any other payments which made to you, or any other charges made by to the lessees or the tenants, which are not included in those amounts which you have given? Certainly not; the payments to which I refer made under this Clause of the building agreement: "Upon the granting of such certificate" (which is the certificate that the lessee is entitled to his lease) "by the architect of the Commissioner as is hereinbefore mentioned, the contractor shall pay to such architect a fee equal amount to the fees payable to the district surveyor under the provisions of the Metropolitan Building Acts."

2665. Is the Office of Woods aware of the amount which you receive in that way?—There is no return made of it.

2666. There is no return made by you to them?—No; I have made a return to them, but not a formal matter to do so.

2667. They have no responsibility for it?—They have no responsibility whatever in the matter.

2668. And they are not informed by you of the amount which you receive in such cases?—They have frequently asked me whether I received it; and for this reason: that in many cases it happens that the lessee is entitled to his lease before the amount of the fee is settled to the district surveyor. Then in order to prevent inconvenience I allow the lease to go on to be ready for delivery to the lessee, and I am asked whether the lessee has paid those or whether I have made arrangements with to secure the payment to myself.

2669. Is the total of the amounts which you given to the Committee, as the amount of bills a net charge on the land revenues?—Certain portions of it, I believe, are recovered from various parties by the Commissioners of Woods.

2670. Under what arrangement is that done?—Certain charges for the grants of repairing leases, the fees upon alterations and improvements, and many cases which arise in which the attention of the Commissioners is sought in case of difference between different lessees, and other cases in which a stipulation is made that the charges of the Crown Surveyor shall be paid to the Commissioners by the applicant.

2671. And by whom is the charge fixed which is payable by the lessee or by the tenant?—It is fixed either under the scale which I have just given or by agreement.

2672. Is it fixed by you or by the Commissioners of Woods in communication with the lessee or the tenant?—It is arranged by me in communication with the lessee or the tenant, referred to the Commissioner, and subject to his sanction and approval.

2673. It is arranged by you, submitted to the Commissioners of Woods, and, if sanctioned by them, then agreed upon?—Then agreed upon.

2674.

Chairman—continued.

I can give you the net charge on the land revenues for each of those years.

2674. Perhaps it would make the case complete on the notes if you would do that?—The net charge on the land revenues with respect to my services in these following years is: In 1880 (that is, for the year ending 31st March 1880), 1,673 *l.* 8 *s.* 5 *d.*; 1881, 2,136 *l.* 11 *s.* 8 *d.*; 1882, 1,563 *l.* 15 *s.* 2 *d.*; 1883, 2,687 *l.* 4 *s.* 11 *d.*; 1884, 2,607 *l.* 15 *s.* 11 *d.*; 1885, 4,284 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; 1886, 1,965 *l.* 3 *s.* 2 *d.*; 1887, 2,138 *l.* 14 *s.* 9 *d.*; 1888, 1,374 *l.* 12 *s.* 8 *d.*

2675. And are those years financial years or calendar years?—They are financial years, to the 31st March.

2676. To the 31st March of each year?—Yes. I have adhered to these figures although my own accounts are made up for the calendar year.

2677. Are the instructions by the Commissioners given to you in writing in cases in which you are asked to deal with property?—In every case instructions are given to me in writing. In some few special instances I have received verbal instructions, but those have always been confirmed subsequently in writing.

2678. In the event of a lease about to fall in, would the negotiations for either a new tenant or an alteration in the terms upon which the property is held be initiated by you, or come to you as instructions from the Commissioners of Woods?—It is generally initiated by an application from the lessee himself to the Commissioner.

2679. Not to you?—Very often it is to me, in the first instance, informally.

2680. What happens in that case; do you forward it to the Commissioner, or enter upon the negotiation, and then forward them subsequently?—I refer the applicant to the Commissioner; the applicant then makes his application in writing to the Commissioner.

2681. And do the Commissioners then give you instructions in writing?—They refer the applications to me.

2682. I suppose all these leases, or sales, or agreements for dealing with property require and obtain the sanction in writing of the Commissioners of Woods before they are completed?—I have no power to enter into a binding agreement. The course taken with regard to repairing leases is that the applicant, having asked for a new term or made his application in whatever form he desires, I negotiate with him and settle with him the terms of a proposal to be made by him which I could recommend the Commissioner to accept. Those terms are reduced into writing and come as a proposal from the lessee or the applicant to the Commissioner offering to take a lease of such and such premises for such a term on such and such conditions. That proposal is sent to me. I report on that proposal to the Commissioner in writing, and recommend its acceptance. The further communications, the acceptance and the formal agreement, are carried out by the Office of Woods.

2683. Does the Office of Woods provide you with any clerical assistance, or any assistance in connection with your work?—Not in any way whatever. My charges are gross charges, and the whole expenses fall upon myself as an ordinary professional man.

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2684. Is

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Mr. CATES.

[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

2684. Is there any general period for which these leases are granted?—Repairing leases are granted ordinarily for 21 years, except where the expenditure is considerable, and the interests of the Crown require that the expenditure should be so considerable.

2685. You mean the outlay upon the buildings?—I mean the outlay upon the premises.

2686. Are you speaking now of a building lease?—Of repairing leases only. Where the expenditure is considerable, and the interest of the Crown requires that it should be considerable, the length of the term is occasionally 40 years.

2687. And in the case of sites which are let on building leases?—Then the term is 80 years.

2688. Is that term of 80 years uniform?—Practically it is uniform. In some few cases, where the re-building has been necessary, and adjoining premises have been let on a lease for 80 years (many years ago), and it is desirable that the new term should expire concurrently with the old term; leases have been granted for only 44 years, and 43 years.

2689. In that case would a lessee be willing to spend a sufficient amount of money on the building to be erected?—Yes. The circumstances generally (in fact, invariably) have justified such a course.

2690. Would a lease for 40 years bring a higher or a lower rental than a lease for 80 years?—A building lease for 40 years brings a lower rental than a building lease for 80 years.

2691. An 80 years' lease is worth more per annum than a 40 years' lease?—Certainly.

2692. Is there much difference between the two?—There would not be a very great difference. There would be some difference.

2693. What would it be, 50 per cent.?—It is a matter of calculation and arrangement; but the cases in which these leases for short terms of 43 or 50 years have been granted, where re-building has been necessary, have been solely where the adjoining premises have been leased for a term which would expire in the 43 years, and it becomes essential that the two leases should expire concurrently. In most cases they have formed part of the same premises. For example, there is the case of St. James' Hall, Piccadilly; the new entrance was re-built upon a 43 years' term. It formed part of the whole block of buildings for which the leases should expire, and must expire concurrently.

2694. In estimating the amount of rent which you advise the Commissioners to require in any of these cases, I suppose you depend upon your general knowledge of the value of property in the district and on your professional experience?—I depend of course upon my professional experience and upon my knowledge of dealings with property and the value of property in the district; and the special circumstances connected with the particular site.

2695. Has the property increased in value very much since you have been connected with it?—Certainly it has. I believe the income has increased very considerably indeed.

2696. Have there been any large additions to the capital account since you have had anything to do with it by the purchase of additional property?—Oh, yes. I know nothing of the detail of the accounts of the Office of Woods, but I can

Chairman—continued.

give you the amount which has been expended in purchases.

2697. During the time you have been connected with it?—Yes, I can.

2698. I think perhaps it would be desirable to have that. I think it would be useful to the Committee?—In the years between 1873 and 1889, 1,396,700 l. 14 s. 4 d. has been expended on the purchase of freehold ground-rents in London producing 53,820 l. 12 s. 4 d. in annual rent, being an average of 25·951 (just under 26 years' purchase).

2699. And during that period have you any amount of the sales which have been made?—I have. During the same period from 1873 to 1889, the total cash received for sales of London property has been 226,823 l. 7 s. 2 d.; I call it "Cash received for sales," because under the Public Offices Sites Act the amount paid to the Crown for the Spring Gardens site is by half-yearly instalments, I think, of some 8,000 l. a year; and out of the 324,000 l. payable under that award, only 35,224 l. 12 s. 6 d. has yet been received, so that there is a balance of 288,653 l. 7 s. 6 d. capital yet to be received in respect of the Public Office sites, Spring Gardens. The half-yearly instalment is 8,121 l. which is applied, first in payment of the interest on the outstanding capital and then the balance in reduction of the capital.

2700. Have most of these sales of property within that period been made under statutory power?—All the large amounts have been.

2701. But it has not been the practice to sell property, except in such cases as the Parliamentary powers have been obtained for acquiring it?—The only exceptions to that have been for sites for certain hospitals, schools, and churches, and one sale of some small property in Soho, which were sold by auction.

2702. Have you any other statement which you wish to make to the Committee on this subject; if my questions have exhausted it?—With regard to the sales of purchases?

2703. Yes?—I have a statement here of the sales that have been made between 1873 and 1889.

2704. Perhaps it would be convenient to put in a copy of that?—I will hand you this copy. (*The document was handed in.*)

Sir Joseph Bailey.

2705. Do you know where the money comes from which represents the difference between the amount of sales and the amount of investment?—No, it does not come within my range of knowledge.

Mr. Isaacs.

2706. You know it is more than one million sterling, do you not?—I have no knowledge whence it is derived, it is more than one million.

Chairman.

2707. The sales to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and to the trustees of certain churches and incumbents and churchwardens are made, I suppose, on a valuation made by you?—No, I suppose, on a valuation made by me, to which I declare the Act.

2708. And the valuation which you believe to be the full value of the property?—Certainly.

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

2709. The full market price?—Certainly. No advance whatever is made. Under the Act of 1844, c. 50, s. 61, the surveyor was required to make this oath: "I, A.B. do swear (*or being a Quaker* do solemnly affirm) that the survey, estimate, or account, hereto annexed, was faithfully and impartially made by me; that the value of the property therein contained is justly estimated therein, according to the best of my skill and judgment; and that all the particulars stated in the said survey, or estimate, or account, are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief. So help me God." But that has been changed since under statute for a declaration which now reads, "I" (surveyor) "do solemnly and sincerely declare that the survey and estimate, or account, hereto annexed, were faithfully and impartially made by me; that the value of the property therein contained is justly estimated therein, according to the best of my skill and judgment; and that all the particulars stated in the said survey, or estimate, or account, are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Acts of Parliament in that behalf made and provided;" and to every survey or report that I make that declaration is affixed.

Mr. Isaacs.

2710. Is it made before a justice?—It is made before a Commissioner; that is to say, the Commissioner of Woods himself.

Chairman.

2711. Is he authorised by Statute to receive?—I presume so.

2712. I see that there have been several purchases by the Metropolitan Board of Works under certain Improvement Acts. Is there any percentage added to the value of the property in compulsory purchase in those cases?—Certainly.

2713. And the same in the case of the railway companies to whom property has been sold?—Certainly; the fullest value obtainable with the ordinary 10 per cent.

2714. Are these usually the results of agreement, or is arbitration resorted to?—In sales to the Metropolitan Board of Works I think I may say in all cases the matter is referred to arbitration, and the same with the sales to the Corporation.

2715. Do you wish to say anything to the Committee on the general principles of management that are adopted in the letting of houses on repairing leases, beyond what you have said already?—The first broad principle which governs my recommendation to the Commissioner to deal with the occupying tenant.

2716. You have given us the figures of the amount of the Bills since 1880; I do not know whether you have with you the amount of the Bills, say for the first five years of your management?—No, I have not; but I can furnish it.

2717. Perhaps you will provide that, and put in so that the Committee may have it, from 1870 to 1888?—I will.

2718. You were going to tell us the general principles of management adopted by you in 0.103.

Chairman—continued.

connection with this property?—The cardinal principle is, that in dealing with houses to be let on repairing leases the occupying tenant should be the person to be negotiated with, assuming him to be a respectable and responsible person, and willing to pay an adequate rent.

2719. And the period is generally a period of 21 years, is it not?—Twenty-one years.

2720. The lessee undertakes the repairing and maintenance of the property?—The rent fixed is a net rent, clear of all outgoing and repairs, and every other liability. In some cases, in fact in most cases, for repairing leases, a fine is taken in reduction of the rent. That is taken under the powers of the 31st section of 10 Geo. 4, chapter 50, to which I have referred.

2721. Have you told us, in connection with the scale of remuneration, the amount of commission which is paid to you on the fine?—The commission is paid to me upon the gross rent.

2722. And you get no commission on the fine?—No, no commission on the fine.

2723. I suppose there are some cases where a surrender takes place of a current lease, and fresh terms and conditions are arranged, and new terms?—There are many cases, and they have been cases of considerable importance, in the development of the property.

2724. Is there anything you would like to say on that subject?—I have a statement here of all surrenders that have been accepted, and of leases granted (*handing in the same*).

2725. Is this a complete list of surrenders which have been accepted and new leases granted since October 1871?—I believe it to be so. I prepared it with that intention.

2726. It is not necessary to put this document in the Appendix or to print it. It gives the locality of the premises, the old term, the years unexpired, and the date of surrender: the new term, the old rent and the new rent, and any other considerations connected with it?—It does. I attach very great importance to the surrenders, because they facilitate exceedingly the improvement of the Crown property.

2727. The improvement of the property as a whole?—As a whole.

2728. With reference to sites let for rebuilding, in certain cases I suppose you advise that the property should be pulled down and new buildings erected?—Yes, where the buildings are worn out, and the locality renders such a course desirable.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

2729. What staff do you find necessary to assist you in doing the public work?—I consider that my staff and expenses cost me something like 1,000*l.* a year. It varies of course. When the work has been very heavy I have been obliged to get other assistance.

2730. And subject of course to your own interest in the matter, do you think that the work could be as well done by a salaried public servant, or do you think that it is better done by a professional surveyor?—My own impression is that the terms under which I am employed are about as advantageous to the public as they well can be. It leaves the control of the surveyor who is employed absolutely in the hands of the Commissioner, because he is free to employ any other person he thinks

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thinks fit. He is free to terminate the engagement on three months' notice; and the surveyor has no claim whatever for compensation in any form whatever.

Sir Henry Fletcher.

2731. Could you define the London property. Does it extend simply to the metropolitan area and the City of London, or what is it?—You may take it as the metropolitan area, including the City of London; broadly speaking, that which you see on the map of London of the Post Office Directory.

2732. And 12 miles round?—No, I only deal with property within London; so the Post Office Directory map would be a very fair and broad way of defining it.

Mr. Isaacs.

2733. I take it that the duties you discharge for the Office of Woods and Forests are analogous to those performed by the surveyors to the large estates in London, such as the Duke of Westminster's, the Duke of Norfolk's, and the Marquess of Salisbury's, and the other large estates that we find in London?—They probably are analogous, but I am not acquainted with the extent of the duties performed on those estates.

2734. You can understand that on any estates of that kind the duties you discharge towards the Woods and Forests would be continually arising?—Quite so.

2735. I think I am right in saying that in all those instances, that is of the large estates in London, the proprietors always have, and always have had within the recollection of professional men, gentlemen like yourself who have been appointed as surveyors to the estate?—I believe that is so.

2736. In all these cases the negotiations as to which you have pointed out, the renewals of leases and the acquisition of building sites, have always been granted upon the reports of those gentlemen?—I presume they have.

2737. Now will you kindly tell the Committee (some of them may be ignorant of what these estates are) what the principal London estates of the Woods and Forests are?—If I refer to the plans of the estate which I have here, I can go through them *seriatim*, and describe in general terms the income-producing estates of the Crown in London.

2738. I would be much obliged if you would. It will give the Committee something like an idea of the immense importance of these estates?—I will take them as they appear here in this book of plans. Kensington Palace Gardens is the first.

2739. Will you just generally describe it?—It commences on the north in the Uxbridge-road, in the High-street, Notting Hill, and extends to the High-street, Kensington. In the High-street, Kensington, on the south side, there is also an estate of which the freehold was purchased at public auction, these were new buildings erected, as the result of the Kensington Improvements.

2740. The widening of High-street?—The widening of High-street, on the south side. There are the two great houses at Albert Gate, which were the result of the new entrance to

Mr. Isaacs—continued.

Hyde Park; houses in St. George's place, result of an escheat. There are houses on north side of Piccadilly, between Apsley House and Gloucester House, the Duke of Cambridge.

2741. The whole of those?—The whole of those, including Hamilton-place; and on east side of Park-lane, between Brick-street the fifth house south of Grantham-place; and block including houses in Park-lane, in B street, and in Grantham-place. At Millbank is the Millbank Estate, which extends Grosvenor-road and the Thames northward to the Vauxhall Bridge-road and Bessborough street. It includes Bessborough-street, borough-place, Ponsonby-street, Ponsonby-place, Ponsonby-terrace and other places. That is on the south side of the Penitentiary wall and on the north side of the Penitentiary wall there are other premises in front of which certain new houses have recently been built, extending from the Penitentiary wall to the Speaker's stables. Then I come to the Regent's Park Estate, the Regent's Park Estate extends from the Albert-road on the north to the Park-crescent and Portland-place on the south, and from Park-road on the west to Park-lane, East Augustus-street and Osnaburgh-street on the east. I do not know whether you wish to go into the detail of that estate.

2742. No; I will put a question to you. You have given the particular properties, will it be so good as to give those first?—It comprises a good many sheets of this survey. The south-end of Portland-place, Regent's Park, commences with certain houses north of St. James's Church, at the south end of Portland-place, and extends down Langham-place.

2743. Does it include the Langham Hotel?—No, it includes a small piece of the bow window of the Langham Hotel. Langham Hotel is built upon freehold, the Crown; I believe the freehold of the corner, but it does include St. George's Hall off Regent-street. Then Regent-street extends southwards to the end of Waterloo-place, Pall Mall. As we go southwards, going east, there is some property in Oxford-street and Wardour-street, property in Oxford-street, which has recently been built, and a block south of that, between Regent-street and Little Chapel-street, and a block further south, between St. Ann's Church and Meard's Court; there is also property in Little Pulteney-street which has been recently re-built in connection with the widening of Pulteney-street and opening up of Little Pulteney-street. Then in Piccadilly there is a considerable property extending on the north side of Regent Circus, Piccadilly, to two houses in Swallow-street, including St. James's Hall and all the buildings adjacent to it. On the south side of Piccadilly the Crown property extends from the Haymarket, including "The Crown" and the Museum of Geology to Church-street, and also from Duke-street nearly to St. James's-street, including the Egyptian Hall, extending in both blocks through to Church-street; south of that block, and east of St. James's-street, there are the blocks which include, the one, "Boodle's Club," and the other "Herries' Bank," in St. James's-street, and the blocks at the rear between Church-street and Duke-street, which respectively

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clude the Turkish Baths and Christie and Anson's auction rooms. On the west side of James-street, from Arthur's Club (including Arthur's Club) southward to Cleveland-row, and back to Little St. James-street, is the freehold of the Crown. There is also a strip of garden land on the east side of the Green Park, extending from Piccadilly down to Cleveland-row; the west side of the Haymarket, between the Haymarket and Waterloo-place, including Armyn-street and Her Majesty's Theatre, is also property of the Crown. Then in Pall Mall, a few houses on the north side of Pall Mall, east of Waterloo-place, and, except one house, the whole of the south side of Pall Mall, from Cockspur-street to Marlborough House. Then Marlton House-terrace, and the properties connected therewith, including the offices of the London County Council, in Spring Gardens. On the east side of the Haymarket, south of James-street, the blocks, including The Haymarket Theatre, the United Universities Club, round Norfolk-street and Suffolk-place, and Pall Mall east from the Haymarket to the National Gallery; also the block including the Union Club, and what was Waterloo House, is the property of the Crown; and on the opposite side of Trafalgar-square, the triangular block including Marlborough's Hotel.

2744. On the east side?—On the east side; and further east the triangular blocks between William-street, Adelaide-street, and the Strand, including the Lowther Arcade and Ratti's Restaurant; north of King William-street, the whole block was the freehold of the Crown; but a considerable portion of it has been alienated for the purposes of the Charing Cross Hospital, and the Ophthalmic Hospital, partly shown in the statement which I have handed in. North of St. Martin's Church we have St. Martin's Mews. Then descending southwards we come to Whitehall-place; the property on the north and on the south side of Whitehall place, including Great Scotland-yard and Little Scotland-yard, is the property of the Crown. Then the strip which is called Whitehall land; which has recently been dealt with, and now is occupied by the National Liberal Club and Whitehall-court is also the property of the Crown. That property extends southward from that point between Whitehall and the Victoria Embankment, as far south as Richmond-terrace Mews, including the whole of Whitehall Gardens and Richmond-terrace. On the opposite side of Whitehall, Dover House, is the property of the Crown. Then there are other small properties at Westminster; the Stationery Office, and a small strip of land by the side of St. James' Park.

2745. That I think pretty well disposes of the large parcels of property?—Yes, I think it does pretty well, for the large blocks. Then south of Buckingham Palace there is the site of the Palace Hotel, and of the houses immediately east and west of it up to the Duchy of Cornwall offices are property of the Crown, and some portions of the Wellington Barracks. Then in New Oxford-street a considerable proportion of the houses on either side of New Oxford-street are the property of the Crown; also in Cranbourne-street; then

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in the Strand, east of the portions that I just now mentioned, we come to Exeter Hall, and the houses immediately adjoining, which also belong to the Crown. In Holborn the Crown has considerable property on either side of Newton-street, including the London and Westminster Bank, and the Holborn Restaurant, and houses on both sides of Newton-street. There are properties on the west side of Fetter-lane, a portion of the Rolls Estate, the Birkbeck Institution and Burt's Printing Office, and Sampson Low's Publishing House. Then the Crown has acquired property in Victoria-street on both sides.

2746. Victoria-street, Westminster?—Victoria-street, Westminster; and the Crown has acquired also practically the whole of the Holborn Viaduct from Hatton Garden to St. Sepulchre's Church.

2747. That is by the purchase of ground-rents, is it not?—By the purchase of ground-rents. That extends both to the high and low level. Then there are incidental houses in different parts which have fallen to the Crown by escheat. There is a small property left in Tower-hill; with the exception of the property on the north side of Church-street, Tower-hill, the whole of the remainder of the Crown property was sold to the Metropolitan Board for the Tower Hill Improvement, and is now thrown into the public way. Then there are certain properties in the City, the freeholds of which have been purchased at various times. There are some properties also in Southwark-street that were purchased by the Crown in a similar manner. Then I come to Victoria Park. There is a considerable property at Victoria Park, covering what was known as Bonner's Fields on either side of the Approach-road, and Bonner's-road extending from the Old Ford Road, to the Park entrance, and again following round the Park, both in Old Ford-road, Gore-road, Gore-crescent, and others surrounding the park. A considerable portion of the Crown land which was about to be built upon was, under the Act of 1872 sold to the Metropolitan Board of Works, and is thrown into the area of the Park enjoyed by the public. I think that that broadly covers the London Estate.

2748. I think it is apparent from the description you have given of the Crown property that the property came into the possession of the Crown through the improvements which the Crown at one time effected in London, and which were effected out of the public monies?—No; hardly so, unless you consider the Crown estates public monies. The Crown property in London may be classed broadly under three categories. 1. Ancient Land Revenues of the Crown. 2. Properties the result of the extensive improvements, such as Regent-street, Charing Cross, &c., carried out by the Crown by the sale and exchange of ancient land revenues. 3. Properties acquired by purchase and exchange.

2749. Take Regent's Park for example?—Regent's Park is ancient land revenue of the Crown. It was known as Marylebone Farm, and it was on lease for a great number of years; and before that lease expired, Mr. Fordyce, the Surveyor General, considered how it should be disposed of, in the interests of the public

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public, and in the interests of the Crown; and the result of that was, that a plan of Mr. John Nash was adopted for laying it out as an enclosure with terraces around and with villas within. At that time it was not contemplated that any portion of the Park should be thrown open to the public; and the building land around was let for building, with the exception of portions on the north side, which have not been built upon at all, and certain villas were built within the Park, less in number than those contemplated by Mr. Nash in the scheme which he laid out.

2750. But coming away from the Park to Regent-street you would say there that the property the Crown has in that street is the result of the improvement that was made by the Crown in those days out of public revenue, would you not?—No; out of the land revenues of the Crown.

2751. Of course a different state of things appertained then to what we have now. There was no public body in existence, like the recently defunct Metropolitan Board of Works, or the new London County Council; and the improvements in London in those days were effected invariably by the Crown?—Just so. I had better explain the origin of Regent-street, so far as I know it. The Prince Regent, I think, had a scheme for building a palace in the centre of Regent's Park, making communication through Portland-place from Carlton House to his suburban palace in the park. At all events the idea developed into the form of Regent-street as it now exists; but that was originated to a great extent also, from the fact that the Crown was a large owner of property on that line. The Crown owned a considerable extent of property on the lines of Swallow-street, which exists now at the south-end and at the north-end of Regent-street, but which then followed a very tortuous course very much on the lines of the present Regent-street. And in order to carry out that scheme, not only was the property of the Crown in Swallow-street and the adjoining parts dealt with, but other property of the Crown was sold to provide the funds for purchasing the properties necessary for the formation of the street. In other cases exchanges were made with public bodies; so that Regent-street may be said to have been formed out of the proceeds of the land revenues of the Crown.

2752. You would not give that description of the improvement effected in New Oxford-street. That was a metropolitan improvement, pure and simple, was it not?—New Oxford-street comes under an entirely different category. That was acquired by the Crown by exchange. Under the Public Offices Act, about 1855, under which the part of the site for the block in Downing-street (Sir Gilbert Scott's block) was acquired, the property of the land revenues of the Crown in connection with the public officer were compensated by the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Works, in whom the fee was to be vested, exchanging their properties in Cranbourne-street and New Oxford-street, with the land revenues of the Crown, for their interest in the Downing-street property

Mr. Isaacs—continued.

2753. Would the formation of the New Oxford street account for the Crown being the owner of the property in Holborn?—Certainly not. The properties in Holborn are ancient land revenues.

2754. I mean the London and Westminster Bank, and the Holborn Restaurant?—The block containing both is ancient land revenue of the Crown.

2755. Going further east, the Crown property which you have in Holborn Viaduct has been obtained by purchases recently made through your department, has it not?—It was so obtained by purchase under my advice and as the result of my negotiations; and, I think, very happily so. The great desire I have had has always been to acquire properties, either adjacent to those of the Crown or others *en bloc*, and I had, under the authority of the Commissioners, tendered for various properties in this vicinity that had been created under the Holborn Valley Improvement by the Corporation; but I think in every instance I failed, because my valuations were less than the prices offered by other people. I had looked upon this Holborn Viaduct with some degree of interest, hoping some day to enter upon negotiations for its acquisition directly with the Corporation; and I was very much surprised to find one day, from an advertisement, that the whole of this property was to be sold by tender in single plots, single houses. You can very well understand how disadvantageous that would be to a purchaser like the Crown tendering; you might get one house here and one house there, in little plots about, particularly disadvantageous as regards Holborn Viaduct. I made a good deal of inquiry upon the subject, and I found that the Corporation had rather anticipated their powers, because their lessees had an option of purchase at a fixed rate, which option had not expired, and the Corporation had advertised this property for sale, relying upon the lessees not having funds with which to exercise their option. I once entered into treaty with the lessees, and succeeded in inducing them to exercise their option in favour of the Crown. By that means I succeeded in obtaining the whole of the property in one block.

2756. Had you to pay the lessees for their action in the matter at all?—No.

2757. It was simply done with a view to facilitate the operation?—It was better for them to have one lessor (one large landlord) than a multitude of small ones, and I think it was a negotiation which has turned out very happily.

2758. Now coming to the very easternmost of the Crown property, namely, Victoria Park, assume I may take it that that property became Crown property through the formation of a park at the East End of London?—The Victoria Park was formed, or purchased, I may say. The formation and purchase are two different things out of funds belonging to the land revenues, the arrangement under the Act was, that the centre should be laid out to be used by the public for the public enjoyment, and that the land around should be appropriated for building sites as an equivalent for the funds employed

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and should be assigned to the land revenues for that purpose.

2759. Now we have got from you I think the Crown properties in London through the description you have given us. Would you kindly let us have some idea of the rental value of those estates. Do you know that at all?—I think you heard from Mr. Higgins the rent that he receives from them.

2760. I do not think I have a note of that?—It was stated by Mr. Higgins; and I think it was 250,000 *l.* The question was this: "Can you just tell us what is the entire amount of what you receive personally as receiver for Middlesex" and you may take it for this purpose that Middlesex and London are identical) and the answer is "250,388 *l.*"

2761. Over a quarter of a million?—A large amount of that is derivable from ground-rents. You may take it, that the number of houses let on ground-rent is 4,252.

2762. So that this revenue of upwards of a quarter of a million, will at some date be very largely increased, when the existing leases fall in?—As the existing leases fall in, or as surrenders are taken, and the property is re-built in the manner I explained just now to the Chairman.

2763. Now I see that in the return that you have put in, as to the emoluments of your office, there are some very considerable differences. Whilst in 1884, you received 5,809 *l.*, in 1887 it was only 2,700 *l.*, being 3,000 *l.* less. Can you broadly state how such a big difference arose in two years?—That would arise from charges becoming due for negotiations, which had been pending over some years, and which had then been concluded, and from the very large amount of business that fell upon me just preceding those years; in fact, it very nearly incapacitated me from doing any business at all. It was entirely abnormal; special. I think you may very fairly eliminate those years, and take the other years as representing very nearly what is the ordinary amount.

Chairman.

2764. Does it not arise from the moiety on certain large properties which had been let becoming payable after a period of negotiation?—Yes.

Mr. Isaacs.

2765. Would you say then that the returns which you have given for the years 1883, 1884 and 1885, amounting as they do in 1883 to 277 *l.*; in 1884, to 5,809 *l.*, and in 1885 to 407 *l.*, are abnormally large receipts?—Certainly.

2766. And do not represent the amount of work done in those particular years?—No, they extend over years before, and from circumstances which are not likely to occur again.

2767. I see that amongst your duties you have to advise upon all sales of Crown properties in London which are effected; have you put in a list?—Yes.

2768. They extend from 1870 to 1889, and the total is 516,476 *l.*; that amount has been received less the balance, which has to come 0.103.

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from the Public Offices site, which is received by instalments?—Just so.

2769. And that balance is no less a sum than 289,653 *l.* Would you kindly inform the Committee does that balance bear interest?—It does; the payment for the Public Offices site is regulated by the terms of the Act, which provides that the interest shall be paid at certain times, and, at the same time, a certain amount in payment of capital, and naturally as the capital is reduced the payment for interest also is reduced. In effect the terms are that a terminable annuity shall be paid at certain times (half-yearly), to be applied first in payment of interest on capital monies remaining due, and the balance in reduction of capital.

2770. That is all settled by the terms of the Act of Parliament?—By the terms of the Act of Parliament.

Chairman.

2771. And is payable over a specified number of years?—It is spread over a term of, I think, 35 years.

Mr. Isaacs.

2772. The primary object being not to call upon the Exchequer to find so large a sum as that required for the acquisition of the Public Offices site in one year or in five years?—I presume so.

2773. Coming to the purchases which you have effected between the years 1873 and 1889; I see that they amount to the sum of 1,396,700 *l.*, and the income derivable therefrom you have given as 53,820 *l.*, in round figures; that is about 4 per cent.?—That is very close upon 4 per cent.

2774. Or, as you put it, the purchase has been effected by the Crown at or about 26 years' purchase?—Yes.

2775. That would be a little less than four per cent.. May I ask, do you take the initiative in the purchase of these properties?—In some cases I do; in most cases I do; I have a large number of properties come before me; I investigate them, and then, if I think they are eligible, I either suggest to the parties to submit them to the Commissioner, or I submit them to the Commissioner myself.

2776. May I put it to you in this way. Does Sir Nigel Kingscote say to you, "the department has a certain sum of money which it wishes to invest; we would like you to find London properties, in which the money could be invested," or have you a kind of general instruction that whenever a good property, a property which you can safely recommend the Crown to purchase, comes under your notice, you shall report it to the department?—I take it that it is a general instruction. For instance, the case I gave you of the Holborn Viaduct; that was entirely my initiation.

2777. How much money did that purchase of the Holborn Viaduct estate involve?—The first purchase was 255,255 *l.*; then there were other purchases of 31,200 *l.*, 35,438 *l.*, 67,000 *l.*, 7,436 *l.*, 12,220 *l.*, 8,235 *l.* 10 *s.*, and 2,535 *l.*

2778. Making a sum total of how much?—I have

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have not cast it up. That is spread over four years, or more than that.

2779. I would like to put one or two questions about this investment of the money of the department. Do you consider that the class of security in which the revenues of the Department have been invested on your advice, in any way; depreciated by the discussion which has been carried on in Parliament, and the London County Council and elsewhere as to the so-called taxation of ground-rents?—Judging from what I have seen in the market lately I should hardly say they were. People seem to consider that these views are somewhat visionary.

2780. If the class of security in which you have been in the habit of investing, at or about the rate of 26 years' purchase, has depreciated, do you consider that the value is reduced say, one or two years' purchase in the market by reason of those discussions and the doubt created in the public mind as to the possibility of there being some such source of taxation resorted to?—No, at the present moment I can only cite an instance of a ground-rent that was under my consideration some little time ago; I was not satisfied with the terms that were proposed, and it was subsequently sold by auction, and it sold for the full price demanded, which I thought was in excess of its real value.

2781. And you look upon that as proof that in the public mind there has been no alarm created by these public discussions?—I think so. The public consider them as somewhat academical discussions.

2782. If that be so, with regard to the taxation of ground-rents, you would look upon the discussion that has taken place upon public platforms and elsewhere on the so-called nationalisation of land, as not coming within the range of practical politics?—So far as my own personal view is concerned, I should certainly say so; but my knowledge upon that subject is exceedingly limited.

2783. You see no reason whatever to depart from the course you have pursued up to the present, in advising the Woods and Forests to make purchases of ground-rents in London, as you have hitherto done?—I am not aware of any other investment that would be superior to them, or even equal them.

Chairman.

2784. I omitted to ask you one question. You spoke about re-instatement after fire, is all the Crown property insured against fire?—The covenants of the leases provide that it shall be insured; in some cases, for fixed amounts, in other cases for full value, in other cases for two-thirds.

2785. Is the premium paid by the lessee, or occupier?—If the lessee is the occupier, it would be paid by the lessee.

2786. Perhaps I may put the question in another way then. The contracting party to the agreement with the Office of Woods is under obligation to insure the premises?—Under obligation to insure the premises. That is one of the stipulations of every letting.

2787. Is there any stipulation as to the fire insurance offices?—"In such office as may be

Chairman—continued.

approved by the Commissioner, in London or Westminster."

2788. Is the choice left to the lessee?—In some cases.

2789. And the premium paid by him direct?—And the premium paid by him direct; and he is bound to produce the policy or receipt when ever called upon to do so.

2790. And neither the Commissioners of Woods, nor you, have any commission on the transaction. I do not ask it in an offensive way?—No, certainly not.

2791. I mean to say the agency is not carried on, either through the Commissioners of Woods or through you?—Certainly not, the lessee is perfectly independent, provided he assures in an approved office. I should say, that in some of the Crown leases, there was a stipulation that the insurance should be effected, I think, in the Royal Exchange. Those were leases granted at the time of the formation of Regent-street, and I think that arose from the fact of the Royal Exchange Office, having lent very considerable sums of money for the purposes of the improvement on the security of the Crown Estate, and they naturally made a stipulation that all the property should be insured in their office.

2792. And are the receipts for the premium produced half-yearly or yearly?—I have no knowledge upon that point.

2793. That would not come before you?—That does not come before me. There is no notice upon every receipt for rent, inviting the attention of the lessee to the necessity of attending to his insurance.

2794. My point is, what security is taken to see that it is carried out?—I am not aware.

2795. Would you say that the value of property has increased in recent years or diminished in recent years, according to your experience of it?—It varies very much. In some parts of London it has not increased at all. I have had a very wide experience, and in some districts the rents obtainable are not very much more than they were 30 years ago, but in other parts the increment has been very large and very rapid.

2796. Do the leases of the Crown property fall in, in (what for the want of a better term I may call) lumps?—In blocks.

2797. In blocks?—As far as possible the endeavour is made to make the expiry concurrent, particularly when leases are granted for short terms of 21 years; so that in the case of opportunity arising or necessity arising for pulling down, or developing by new buildings, there is nothing to hamper the free dealing with the property.

2798. I suppose, speaking generally, you would say that as the leases fall in, a higher rent is paid?—Invariably.

2799. Will there be any large blocks falling in within the next few years, do you know?—There will be a block situated on the north side of Glasshouse-street.

2800. I was not wanting to know as to any particular property; my question was raised with the view of seeing what prospective increment in the value of the income may be looked for

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the next few years?—On that it is very difficult to form an opinion.

2801. You cannot say?—I can tell you broadly when the leases of the Crown property, say in Regent-street and Regent's Park and other blocks, which have been let upon building terms, will fall in; they will fall in in and about 1911 and 1921.

2802. Apparently you do not anticipate that there will be any very abnormal increase in the amount of the income immediately?—Not immediately.

2803. Who investigates the title in purchasing property. Is that done by the solicitor of the department?—By the solicitor; but before I make any recommendations, I make all inquiries, as to clear the ground; and in many cases I find from my inquiries some little point which renders it desirable not to proceed with the negotiations. I endeavour to make my report complete that no hitch shall arise afterwards.

2804. I do not quite remember whether you told us the proportions of that amount of one million odd; purchases of property, during your period of office. What proportion of that was for ground-rents?—The whole of that was for ground-rents; the whole of the 1,396,700 *l*.

2805. Entirely in ground-rents?—Entirely in ground-rents; upon leases for terms varying from 10 to 88 years.

Sir Henry Fletcher.

2806. With regard to the St. James' Crown property, are those large houses, the Duke of

Sir Henry Fletcher—continued.

Sutherland's, Lord Spencer's, Lord Ellesmere's, on Crown property. You brought us to Cleveland Row?—Yes, I ought to have carried it a little further, and I will do so if you will allow me to refer to the plan. I brought you into Cleveland Row, in two sections; one the curtilage on the east side of St. James' Park, and the other by St. James-street. The Bridgewater House is not the property of the Crown.

2807. That is Lord Ellesmere's?—Lord Ellesmere's. The properties north of that in Cleveland Row (Lord Sydney's) are not the properties of the Crown; Stafford House is the property of the Crown.

2808. And Spencer House?—Spencer House is not, but simply the curtilage forming the garden between the house and the Green-park.

2809. Then I suppose that in the event of those leases falling in which you mentioned as belonging to the Crown, there will be a considerable increase as regards those premises?—Oh yes, I should presume so.

2810. Have you any idea when they fall in?—I can tell you.

2811. Take Stafford House?—The lease of Stafford House falls in on the 5th July 1940.

2812. And the other property you mentioned as belonging to the Crown?—Do you mean the curtilages.

2813. Yes?—On the 5th April 1895. They are merely strips of garden.

2814. The Bridgewater House is not the property of the Crown, you say?—Bridgewater House is not the property of the Crown.

Mr. JOHN HENRY CLUTTON, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

2815. THERE were questions asked, I think, at the last meeting of the Committee, of your brother, with reference to certain portions of the management of property under your care belonging to the Crown; but I think that he was not able to answer certain questions that members desired to put with regard to the management of the agricultural portion of the land. I daresay you will probably be able to answer any question that may be put on that subject, will you?—I think so, probably.

Mr. Heneage.

2816. What portion of the work of the property belonging to the Crown do you particularly undertake; as I understood your brother, you do the work more or less between you?—My brother, who was up here before you the other day, attends entirely to building land and town property; and the other members of the firm (my father, my brother, and myself) do not follow any particular line, except of course that my father is the Crown receiver. My brother and myself take it how it comes. We do not follow any particular line.

2817. You look after the agricultural lands particularly, do you not?—Well, rather more than any other member of the firm.

2818. And in your office you supply either yourselves or by agents, every person who is interested?—

Mr. Heneage—continued.

required to advise you upon all particulars connected with the land agency part of the business?—Yes.

2819. No other agents are paid by the Office of Woods apart from those which you employ?—No other agents are paid by the Office of Woods.

2820. In fact, the supervision of everything with regard to the farming of the land, with regard to buildings, with regard to drainage, and everything else that a land agent has to supervise, you have either to do yourselves or to pay other men to advise you in doing it?—Yes.

2821. Therefore, the per-centage which you get is not a simple per-centage to a land agent, but is a payment to supply everything that is necessary to supervise those estates?—Yes.

2822. In answer to one question last time it was stated that the payments to clerks amounted to something like 3,000 *l*. a year?—Yes, I see that was stated.

2823. Will you explain what those clerks do, how many there are, or in any way you like to explain it, that could account for so large an expenditure in clerks over a property of 57,000 acres, with a rent roll of 80,000 *l*. a year?—There is a certain number of clerks (seven) entirely occupied by Crown work. Then, I think, as my brother explained, there is a certain

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proportion

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Mr. CLUTTON.

[Continued]

Mr. Heneage—continued.

proportion of other clerks' time occupied with Crown work; that is to say, there is a certain proportion of the cashier's time and of others.

2824. And is their time taken up entirely by clerical work, or are they something other than clerks?—Some of them are something more than clerks, certainly. They do all the work that my brother pointed out to you the other day. There are clerks who are engaged in preparing designs for buildings and preparing estimates for repairs; and there are other clerks who do all the preliminary work before it comes actually to my father. There is one gentleman whose time is entirely taken up in preparing reports, and, of course, in interviewing intending tenants. You get several tenants applying for one farm, of course; then he interviews them and ascertains their eligibility or otherwise; he weeds them out before it comes to my father to actually decide; and there are numbers of other questions that arise, of course, which I cannot define.

2825. A certain portion of the land is agricultural land, other portion of it is town land; in the case of town land, what clerical work would there be with the exception of receiving the rents, that is to say, the house land?—Nothing, where the houses are let; do you mean on a building estate where the houses have been built and then you receive the ground rents?

2826. Where you receive the rents?—There would be nothing of course beyond receiving the rents unless any question arose.

2827. There is no large amount of work required beyond preparing the half-yearly rentals and receiving the rents on those properties?—On those properties.

2828. With regard to the agricultural properties. Are they large farms, as a rule, or small farms?—They vary considerably.

2829. You could not, I suppose, give us the number of your agricultural tenants?—No, I could not give you the number.

2830. Have you a large number of large farms?—Yes; there are a good many large farms.

2831. The tenants do all the repairs, do they not, and pay all the rates and taxes?—Yes.

2832. So that there is no correspondence with regard to that matter?—There is a great deal of correspondence as regards the repairs. We very frequently have to call upon the tenants to do certain repairs; and that involves a certain amount of correspondence to see that it is done.

2833. But, I suppose, you do not do all that by letter, do you?—Oh, no, not entirely. Going back to that question which I was asked just now, as to the number of tenants, I believe there are 130 farms of about 50 acres and upwards.

2834. Have you not got a good many farms of over 600 acres?—There are some, there are not many.

2835. I mean five or six?—About 21. The majority certainly would be under 600 acres.

2836. Small holdings, you will understand of course, that if they are large farms they will require less correspondence and trouble than they would if they were small ones, because there are fewer people to deal with, that is the reason why I ask you the question?—Yes; of course, if you

Mr. Heneage—continued.

take the number of tenants per acre, there are fewer.

2837. Now with regard to the receipt of the rents, do you receive these rents half-yearly stated days on the different properties?—Half-yearly. Do you mean the same day every year?

2838. No; on a certain day?—On a certain day.

2839. Of which you give notice, and on which all the tenants come and pay either the whole of their rents or such portion of the rents as they can get?—Yes.

2840. As a rule are the rents paid pretty regularly on those days?—Yes, I think you may say so. They used to be of course paid more regularly than they have been within the last few years.

2841. Then you have no very great trouble with regard to the collection of the rents out of those audits?—No, not for the principal farms.

2842. Are you aware that the rate of percentage which you are now receiving, including what you have to pay to clerks and otherwise, comes to about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the nominal rental of the whole property?—No, I was not aware of that.

2843. Are you aware that it comes to the sum of about 100 l. for every 1,000 acres under charge?—No, I was not aware of that.

2844. If that is correct, and I have made no mistake, are you aware of any property in the land on which the cost of the agency is so large either on the acreage or on the rental?—You mean $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.?

2845. Yes?—Well, I do not know that I really do not know what estates do cost, what is the percentage. The 7 per cent. which you have mentioned includes the bills of charges, I suppose.

2846. The $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. includes that which Colonel Kingscote gave in answer to Question 1338?—That includes the bills of charges which are extra.

Chairman.

2847. The bills of charges for what?—For work that is not included in the receiver's bill. There are certain charges sent in every year.

2848. Could you specify them or give the Committee any idea what they are?—No, I cannot do that.

2849. When you speak of the bills of charges are you referring to the amounts which are sent to you, in your capacity as surveyor?—Yes, they are bills of charges for work, other than what you are expected to do as receiver. Mr. Heneage has given me this return which is the only one I have, I really do not know very much about it.

Mr. Heneage.

2850. Perhaps you will accept what my brother said last time, that on an average members of the firm have not received more than 1,200 l. a year to put into their own pockets, paying the expenses?—The average of the return for three years got out in the year 1888 showed something under 1,000 l. a year.

2851. Then

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[Continued.]

Mr. Heneage—continued.

851. Therefore the whole of those receipts go in the expenses of agency?—Yes.

852. What I want to know is whether you give any reason why this enormous expense agency exists on this particular estate?—Personally I do not know of any case where the amount of work is done by an agent so-called, as is required to be done by us.

Chairman.

853. Could you develop that a little more? Well, you see we are responsible for all the buildings and everything, designs for farmhouses; in buildings and all that sort of work; and at the present moment, so far as I can recollect, I do not know of a single agent that is able to perform all these duties in his own office. All agents that I can call to mind, when an architect is required, call in an outside architect, of course he has to be paid.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

854. I should like to understand clearly what that covers. I see in this cash account of Clutton's, from the 1st to the 31st January 1888 (handed in by Sir Nigel Kingscote), on the 5th page, under the head of "Burwell," buildings, Hook and Tebbitt, balance for erection of a pair of cottages, with dairy and wash-room, and for erection of engine-room and shed for separation on the farm held by Stephenson: Total, 690 l. 1 s. 2 d." Do you see it?—Yes.

855. Were the plans for those cottages made by your office in London?—Yes.

856. How were they built; by day-work or by contract?—By contract.

857. Do you always make a plan for new buildings?—Invariably.

858. Of whatever kind?—Of whatever kind.

859. And the plans for repairs where plans are required?—Yes.

860. Do you do all your work by contract?—Not quite; because there are certain small repairs that it is very difficult to estimate for accurately, and we generally employ a builder that we thoroughly trust, give him the list of what we want, and get an estimate; but we do not have a contract.

861. Take the next item; "Prestbury (seat): J. R. Brown, balance for repairs and works to mansion and cottage held by Drake; Total 190 l. 13 s." Perhaps that was done by a builder in that way; was it?—Yes, it was an estimate.

862. Who checks the work of the builder in the case of contract or in the case of work done by estimate?—We do that in the case of contract.

863. How do you do it?—Our architect goes and views the work from time to time as it progresses.

864. Have you no clerks of the works upon the spot?—No; I mean, not always. There are certain cases in which we have employed clerks of the works, where the work is sufficiently extensive to justify it. I think I may say that a clerk of the works is not always employed, except where the work has been put out to public tender.

1103.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach—continued.

2865. That would be the larger contracts?—Well, we do not go to public tender now.

2866. Then as a rule you are contented now with the check on the builder, in large and small works, which is to be found in the occasional visits of the architect?—Yes, except where a clerk of the works is employed; but in other cases frequent visits are made by the architect.

2867. Are you satisfied with the result of that?—Certainly.

2868. Do you think that your work is well done?—Yes.

2869. Is there any charge in your accounts anywhere, for the inspection of the work done by builders?—No.

2870. Who is the architect who inspects it?—The name of the gentleman in our office do you mean?

2871. No; he is a person in your office is he?—Yes.

2872. Is that work included in your general office expenditure?—Yes.

2873. Then your general office expenditure includes what you think necessary, in the way of checking the execution of your work as well as mere clerks' work?—Yes.

2874. When work is done in this way by estimate, is it measured after it is done?—No; we make a detailed specification and estimate, and we get an estimate from the builder, and we arrange with the builder the price at which he shall do the work.

2875. You do it purely by arrangement with a certain builder, in whom you have confidence?—Yes, where it is done in that way; where there is no formal contract.

2876. Take the smaller repairs, what was your practice with regard to them?—It is all the same. It is the small repairs that are done in this way.

2877. Here is a little matter on the sixth page "J. Faulkner and J. Thurlby, for fencing stock-yard on farm in their occupation, 14 l. 12 s." They are the tenants, I suppose?—They are the tenants.

2878. Was that expenditure checked?—I believe the tenants did the fencing, and the Crown allowed them that sum after it was finished, the work having been approved by my father.

2879. That I suppose was the mere case of a wall or something of that sort?—Yes, it was a mere fence round a stackyard.

2880. And therefore a very easy thing to see?—Yes.

2881. There is one item on the account, "William R. Miller's, further on account for farming, metalling, and fencing road on Flinthouse Farm, held by Messrs. Tinsley." That also I suppose is a tenant?—No.

2882. Did any one check the proper formation of that road?—Yes.

2883. How?—The road was made according to specification.

2884. How do you know that there was sufficient depth of material?—Our surveyor who passed it ascertained that.

2885. What did your surveyor do?—I cannot say; I was not there.

2886. Did he merely go down when the whole work was finished and take a general look at the road?

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road?—I could not say for certain but I have no doubt he saw it during its formation. I could not tell you for certain without asking him.

2887. At any rate in all these matters you have no local check whatever as I understand you have merely the check of a person sent from your office?—Yes, that is all; except where a clerk of the works is employed.

Mr. Heneage.

2888. Then as a matter of fact you do not put out your contracts to public tender?—No, not as a rule.

2889. You select the person who is to have the tender?—No, not necessarily one, generally two or three. It is what we call a limited tender.

2890. And in regard to all ordinary work you let a builder give an estimate; and provided the work is done to the satisfaction of your surveyor you pay him whatever that estimate may amount to?—No, whatever we agree to pay him we pay him.

2891. You never do any small work or ordinary work by local builders, having the work measured up afterwards and paid to them by a scale such as is done generally speaking in Lincolnshire?—No, not as a rule, certainly.

2892. Living as you do in London, would it not be far more satisfactory to pay those builders who are not working by contract on a scale and have the work measured by a competent surveyor than to have this sort of haphazard kind of way of doing it?—There is not a very great deal of that sort of work. It is a very small amount that is done in that way because the tenants as a rule do the small repairs.

2893. Then you have not very much work in that department for your staff?—No, not for small repairs.

2894. Therefore, there is no great expenditure required for that purpose included in this 3,000 *l.* a year?—No, not for small things.

2895. Now let us come to the big ones. Do you propose to tell the Committee (I do not wish to misunderstand you) that you make fresh plans for every cottage or pair of cottages that are built upon the Crown property?—Yes.

2896. Fresh plans?—Fresh plans.

2897. That you have no regulation plans for cottages or houses in your office which can be sent to builders to tender from and take their specifications out?—Yes, but we have to draw a fresh plan for every single case.

2898. Why?—Because every builder has to sign the plan before the contract is drawn, and it has to be adapted. Of course I do not mean to say that there are not a great many cottages that are very much alike or almost identical.

2899. Is that the usual mode of procedure amongst public agents, to make fresh plans for every builder?—I should think so; I do not know really.

2900. Why cannot they come and take the specifications out from the ordinary plans of the office, the same as they do in the case of private estates?—I am not aware that they do so on private estates.

Chairman.

2901. When you say they do not come and take out the specifications do you mean that you

Chairman—continued.

supply them with bills of quantities?—We supply them with the specification and they have to make their estimate from the specification which we supply them with.

2902. They take out, in fact, their own quantities?—They take out their own quantities.

2903. And when you speak about getting an estimate from them, does that mean that you ask them the amount for which they will do a particular work, and that then, supposing you approve of that amount, a contract is made with them to do it for such amount?—Yes.

2904. The sum is fixed beforehand?—Certainly.

2905. And that is checked, as I understand by an estimate made independently in your office of the cost that such work ought to amount to?—Yes; a separate estimate is made of every single building that we have to erect. Of course the difference in the cost depends considerably upon the locality; I mean, you cannot build the same thing at the same cost in every locality.

2906. Do you get estimates from more than one builder. Take this case: assume that you were going to spend 500 *l.*, would you be satisfied to select one builder and take his estimate?—Not unless we had had considerable dealings with him. As a rule, we invite two or three men (the best we can find in the locality) to tender for the works.

2907. Would it be your rule to take the lowest of three tenders, supposing there were three?—Yes; in all probability we should take the lowest unless there was any special reason to the contrary.

Mr. Heneage.

2908. But the most of your building contracts are in either farm buildings, or buildings connected with farm buildings, or labourers' cottages; these agricultural farms, does it not?—Yes, and houses.

2909. Then why is it necessary to have a different set of plans for every pair of cottages you want to build?—Because, as I have explained, you must have a separate plan for every pair of cottages because the builder must sign the plan as the contract.

Chairman.

2910. Yes; but as I understand Mr. Heneage's question, it is this: supposing you have settled upon what you call a plan for your cottages, is there any reason why you should not make a copy of the plans which have been worked out in detail and use copies of those or duplicates of them in other cases?—Not at all where that particular plan suits the locality.

Mr. Heneage.

2911. Let us understand this. Just now you said you had no specific plans in your office; that you make fresh plans upon every occasion.—I said we drew fresh plans on every occasion. You suggested that a builder might come and take out his quantities from a fixed plan in your office. I think that is what you suggested.

2912. To "draw fresh plans" means that you have plans for a cottage entirely apart from

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Mr. Heneage—continued.

her plans that you have in your office. Do you mean when you say you draw fresh plans at you are simply copying some plans in your office on tracing paper to send down to the particular locality?—Yes, if it suits the locality.

2913. With regard to your drainage, who looks after your drainage?—An engineer.

2914. Who is the engineer?—Mr. Grantham.

2915. Is he in your office?—No.

2916. Is he paid by the Woods and Forests?—No.

2917. He is paid by you?—Yes.

2918. And you are responsible for him?—Yes.

2919. What is your mode of procedure when you are going to drain any farm?—We decide what quantity of land requires draining, and he makes a plan and estimate of the works.

2920. Who decides?—My father.

2921. He decides what quantity of land requires draining; does he regard the depth of the drains?—Yes; I mean generally speaking. Of course the main drains have to be laid out according to the level of the ground. He cannot decide that.

2922. Does he decide the average depth of the drains, and say, whether they are to be on an average, 3 feet, 2½ or 4 feet drains?—Yes.

2923. He decides that?—Yes.

2924. Therefore all the expenses of digging the holes and everything else is done by the office and not by the engineer?—The engineer lays out the drains, and sees that the work is properly carried out, and he gets paid for that work by the office; that is to say, not by the Office of Woods, but by my father.

2925. How often does he visit these drains when they are being done?—I could not tell you; but his son generally visits the work very frequently indeed; I daresay once a fortnight at least, probably.

2926. Is the drainage carried out under the supervision of the tenant, or under whose supervision?—Mr. Grantham's.

2927. Mr. Grantham cannot be always there?—He has his foreman, of course.

2928. And who finds the foreman; is that and out of the expenses of the office?—That is part of the cost of drainage.

2929. Then the man who undertakes the drainage finds the foreman who looks after it?—I do not quite understand the question.

2930. Is the work carried out by contract?—No.

2931. How is it carried out?—By day-work.

2932. Who pays the foreman; Mr. Grantham?—That is part of the cost of the works.

2933. Whose servant is the foreman?—For the time being he is the Crown's servant; at last he is Mr. Grantham's servant.

Chairman.

2934. As I understand your answers, you write to the Committee that your father decides generally the plan that shall be adopted, and the depth of the drain that shall be laid down; then

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Chairman—continued.

the work is entrusted to Mr. Grantham to carry out; you say that the work is done by day-work; does Mr. Grantham, by servants of his own, carry out the work, or agree with somebody else, and pay them for carrying out the work, or by whom is the work actually done?—The work is done by day-work. Mr. Grantham prepares an estimate of what the cost will be; that is reported to the Office of Woods and is approved, or otherwise. Then the work is ordered to be done, and Mr. Grantham lays out the whole of the drains (he actually lays them out with the level and so on); then he employs a foreman and certain labourers, and they do the work by day-work, and that has to be done within the estimate, of course. They cut the drains at so much a rod.

Mr. Heneage.

2935. What do you mean by "has to be done within the estimate." When all the estimate has been paid away to these men by day-work, supposing the drainage is not finished, who has to pay the deficit?—I do not remember that there has been any such case.

2936. Then you mean that Mr. Grantham gives an estimate on the right side, so that there shall be no difficulty about carrying out the work?—Well, he gives what he considers a fair estimate, of course.

2937. I will ask you this one question: Have you ever heard in your life of anybody carrying out drainage by day-work?—At so much per rod.

2938. When you say that the work is done by day-work, does that mean that the workmen are paid so much per day, or are they paid by piece-work?—So much per rod.

Mr. Heneage.

2939. That is not by day-work, that is by piece work; that is the way everybody else does them; then the drains are done by piece-work, and the foreman is paid for his time to look after the men to see that it is done properly?—And he is a pipelayer.

2940. But is the foreman in the pay of the office, and the rest of it done by piece-work?—Yes.

2941. You said just now that everything was carried out on your father's responsibility; as a matter of fact, can you expend one sixpence without going to the Commissioners?—No.

2942. Therefore nothing is carried out on your responsibility; you are only the advising agent of the Commissioners?—Well, I do not see that.

2943. Is it so, or is it not; the responsibility for every expenditure rests entirely and absolutely with the Commissioners?—Yes, but my father is responsible to the Commissioner for the proper expenditure.

2944. If they agree to it surely they are responsible?—I do not know.

Chairman.

2945. I suppose you draw a distinction between "responsibility" used in your sense, and "sanction" by the Commissioners?—Yes.

2946. The work is all done under the sanction

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

of the Commissioners, but under the responsibility, you would say, of your father for the carrying out of the work?—That is what I should say.

Mr. Heneage.

2947. Or rather, I put it, on the responsibility of the Commissioners, by the advice of your father; they are not bound to accept his advice, are they?—No; but after they have sanctioned it, he is surely responsible for the carrying out of the work.

2948. Then in the case of this drainage he delegates his responsibility to Mr. Grantham, who, in his turn, delegates it to a foreman; after having once laid out the drain he is no longer responsible for its being carried out, as I understand you?—He is responsible to us that it is properly laid. Mr. Grantham is clearly responsible for the whole work until it is finished.

2949. Do you know anything about the accounts?—No.

2950. Nothing?—No.

2951. And I think you have no woods under your charge?—Do you mean personally, or my father.

2952. Your father?—Oh yes, there are certain woods.

2953. How is the management of the woods carried out; does he superintend that work himself too?—I think I may say that the management of the woods, or some of them, has certainly been in my hands for some years.

2954. Then perhaps you will tell us something about how you manage them; what is the acreage of the woods under your charge?—The principal woods in my father's charge are in Northampton, 1,246 acres.

Chairman.

2955. Are those woods under your care in any way?—No, not personally.

2956. You mentioned some as being under your charge?—Esher is the wood I have had most to do with; that is 844 acres.

Mr. Heneage.

2957. Is that a wood with profitable timber in it?—Yes.

2958. How do you manage it; do you manage it yourself, or have you a forester to manage it?—There is a local woodman.

2959. How do you sell your timber?—We sell the underwood by auction always, every year.

2960. The underwood?—The underwood; then we sell the thinnings. We mark what are necessary to be thinned, and sell them generally by private contract.

2961. Standing, or after they are cut?—Standing.

2962. How do you estimate their value?—We measure them.

2963. Do you send out asking people to make offers for them after you have estimated them?—Yes.

2964. Do you sell them to any one or more particular men at your own estimate?—We generally have men who are accustomed to buy in a particular locality, and they generally apply

Mr. Heneage—continued.

for particulars of any timber we have got to do of the season.

2965. You have no valuable timber in the wood, then?—No; it is growing timber. It is not very old timber.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

2966. Will you tell me what arrears of agricultural rents you have in your books at the present moment, roughly?—I am afraid I cannot tell you that.

Mr. Hobhouse.

2967. You have been asked some questions about the remuneration paid by your firm; I saw in one of the papers that have been handed to me, "No. 6," page 10, the basis of that remuneration is put out under two heads, "Remuneration as Receiver," and "Remuneration as Surveyor with regard to the first item, "Remuneration as Receiver," which amounted to 3,241 l. odd for the year ending 31st March 1888, that, I understand, was a poundage of 4 per cent. on the rents actually received in your office?—Yes.

2968. Less certain items, I do not know what the nature of those items would be; can you tell me. I take it that, broadly speaking, the 4 per cent. on the rents you actually receive is so. Yes; I imagine that is so.

2969. That is for the ordinary collection of the rents, which collection would be done by any ordinary land agent?—Yes; but it also includes reports, monthly cash accounts, and other returns not required by private owners.

2970. And you do not suggest that there is any special work required from your staff in connection with this receipt of rents over and above the ordinary work that would be done by an ordinary land agent's office. I am speaking now merely of the collection of the rents, and your work in connection with it?—It includes the entire management of the property.

2971. It includes the general management of the receipt of rents?—Yes.

2972. Then with regard to the remuneration as surveyor, which amounted to nearly 2,000 l. for that same year, what does that include?—What is your duty as surveyor apart from your duty as receiver?—That is for sales and purchases, and all work that is not provided for by the receivership.

2973. All extraordinary work?—Yes; the buildings, drainage, and so on.

2974. It would include the drawing of plans and approving the plans of new buildings, is it so?—Yes.

2975. And carrying out purchases and sales?—Yes.

2976. And carrying out permanent improvements, such as drainage?—Yes.

2977. You are paid by fees in that branch of the work, I see, according to this return?—It is a percentage on the cost.

2978. It is called "fees" in this return. You state the nature of the payment?—I understood you to say the works of permanent improvements. They are paid for by a percentage on the cost.

2979. Then in the case of designs for buildings, would there be a fee for each design?—

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Mr. *Hobhouse*—continued.

5; the percentage on the cost of the buildings includes the designs that are drawn, and the specifications and superintendence of the work.

2980. Then the whole of your remuneration as surveyor is based on the cost of the works carried out?—That is it.

2981. If you purchased a property you would be paid so much per cent. on the cost of the purchase?—No; sales or purchases of property are paid for by scale.

2982. Then there is a scale for purchases and sales, and the rest of your remuneration is based on the cost of the works carried on?—Yes; here the scale does not apply.

2983. There is also a salary of 42 *l.* a year mentioned; is that for your work in connection with the woods?—I cannot tell you. I understand from Mr. Hellard that is for the woods in Northamptonshire.

2984. That is a special salary for the management of those woods?—Yes; I imagine so.

2985. I imagine that the woods are not very profitable; therefore there is a fixed salary for their management. Would that be the reason for it?—I could not tell you.

2986. There are fees mentioned with respect to the management of farms in hand?—Yes.

2987. Are any fees of that nature included in the two sums mentioned here. There are some farms in hand now, are there not?—Yes; none.

2988. And you are paid special fees for managing these farms, are you not?—Yes.

2989. Are those included in the 1,900 *l.* odd paid you for remuneration as surveyor?—I do not know I am sure.

2990. You cannot give me any information about that?—No, I cannot.

2991. I understood the other day from your office, that in round figures the amount of the rents actually received at the present time through your office, was about 80,000 *l.* a-year?—Yes, he states so. I have no doubt that he is correct.

2992. You have no knowledge of those figures?—No.

2993. And you cannot tell me what proportion that represents of the nominal rental that you would receive if times were good. I take it there have been abatements given during the last few years on the agricultural property?—Do you mean what proportion this 80,000 *l.* bears to what was received before the depression took place?

2994. Yes; what is your nominal rental at present time. Do you give abatements as a temporary, or permanent reductions?—They are nearly permanent reductions at the present time, I believe.

Mr. *Hobhouse*—continued.

2995. Therefore you ought to receive your nominal rental, whatever it is?—Yes; I could not say for certain, but I should think it is nearly so.

2996. The amount of abatements given as temporary reductions is not large at present, is it?—I think not. I believe they are nearly all permanent abatements.

2997. Can you give any idea what proportion of that 80,000 *l.* a-year is received in the shape of agricultural rents, as apart from the rents for house property?—I understood that there was a return to that effect. I do not know.

2998. I do not think it is distinguished in any of these papers?—I could give it you approximately, but I could not give it you with certainty without getting it out.

2999. You cannot give it me off-hand?—No, I should not like to give you a figure which might be wrong.

3000. In fact, you cannot give us any exact figures showing the present cost of management of the agricultural property by itself to your office?—No.

Sir *Michael Hicks-Beach*.

3001. I think you said you were in the habit of arranging with your agricultural tenants that they should be at the cost of the repairs of their houses and buildings; is that so?—All the tenants under the Crown leases are bound to do the repairs, I believe.

3002. Do they carry out that bargain?—I suppose they do; they have done. The Crown have assisted them recently, in the last few years.

3003. To how many of your agricultural tenants does that apply; how many of them hold under Crown leases?—About half, I believe; that is within a trifle, I think.

3004. You do not know whether your father has had occasion on his visits to the farms to find fault with those who have undertaken to do the repairs, for not carrying out their contracts, do you?—I know he has from time to time had to call their attention to repairs that required doing. Of course in later years it has been much more troublesome than formerly.

3005. Have you any system by which the tenant bears part of the cost of the repairs; for instance, the tenant bearing half the cost of material and labour, and you finding the other half. Have you ever tried any system of that kind?—No, not for the Crown.

3006. Do you think such a system might give a tenant some interest in seeing that the work was properly done?—Well, I do not know why it should exactly.

Friday, 12th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr Arthur Acland.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.
Mr. Charles Hall.

Sir William Harcourt.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Arthur Williams.

MR. HENRY H. FOWLER, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. RALPH CLUTTON, again called in ; and further Examined.

Chairman.

3007. I BELIEVE you want to make a correction in your evidence?—Yes, at Question 2590, page 107.

3008. What is it you want to say?—What I want to explain is this, that I did not quite follow your question as you put it to me. Whilst admitting that with 1,500 *l.* a year as a salary, my father would be better off financially, he would not approve of such a principle being applied to his agency.

3009. I will just call your attention to Question 2589, "In your judgment, so far as you are able to make an estimate, the net result is, that you do not get more than 1,000 *l.* a year profit out of the management of these estates"?—Yes.

3010. Your reply is, "That is our estimate of it, and that is our view of what it brings in"?—Yes.

3011. That you wish to remain?—That I wish to remain.

3012. That is to say, that the net result to your firm in the shape of profit for the management of the Crown estate is not more than 1,000 *l.* a year?—Yes.

3013. Following upon that, I asked you this question, "Then you would not object to an arrangement which gave you a salary of 1,500 *l.* a-year, and provided you with all the clerical staff." You answer, "No, certainly not." Now I understand what you want to say is, that you do not want that answer to be extended to an expression of approval of such an arrangement outside its financial aspect?—Yes, quite so; that is what I want to get on the evidence.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3014. As I understand, the business that you do for the Woods and Forests is done quite outside the Office of Woods and Forests; you have a separate office, have you not?—A separate office.

3015. The office in which you carry on your general business as land agents?—Yes.

3016. In addition, I gather from your general evidence that your firm are very largely engaged in other business as land agents?—Certainly.

3017. And for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners?—Yes.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

3018. I do not think you mentioned, per-
you can tell us roughly, what is the amount
income you collect for them; I suppose
carry on the business of land agents for
Ecclesiastical Commissioners pretty much in
same way as you do for the Woods and Fore-
—Yes; in somewhat the same way.

3019. You collect the rents?—Yes; we co-
the rents.

3020. With the same staff as that which
dealt with in apportioning the working expen-
Yes; in apportioning the working expenses
course, I have only taken those clerks that
employed upon the Crown works. Some
employed upon both the Crown and the e-
clesiastical work and other business.

3021. But you have not separate offices?—
no; it is all conducted in one office; and
course, in arriving at that estimate, I have
a proportion of all the clerks' time who
employed upon Crown work.

3022. I quite understand; I suppose you
roughly, a kind of time-sheet for all the
that is carried on?—Yes.

3023. And you have attempted in this est-
which you put forward to apportion to all
clerical staff the amount of work which you
sider they have done during the year in this
ticular business?—That is so.

3024. Can you tell me, roughly, the amo-
the rents of the Ecclesiastical Commis-
which you collect?—No.

3025. It is a very large income, is it n-
Yes, it is a very large income.

3026. Much larger than the 80,000 *l.* a y-
—Yes.

3027. I cannot at the moment remember
it is; but it is very very much larger, is it
—Oh, yes; it is very much larger; there
question about that.

3028. And it also is an income which, in
much the same way as in the Department of
Woods and Forests, you have to collect all
the kingdom?—Yes, all over the South of
land. It is practically the same district as
of the Crown.

3029. Then, in addition to that, you h-
large general business, I believe?—Yes.

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Sir WARINGTON W. SMYTH, F.R.S., called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

3030. You control the whole of the mineral property of the Woods and Forests, do you not? Everything which is referred to me by the Commissioners I have to report upon, and I visit every year the greater part of the mines and collieries which are in actual working.

3031. Perhaps you had better tell the Committee exactly what your duties are?—They are, the first place, to report upon all the letters and applications which are sent in to the Commissioners; and I may state that the correspondence is so considerable that since my appointment in 1857 my register of letters on the Crown alone amounts to nearly 14,000.

3032. Per annum?—Fourteen thousand in all since 1857. Then during one portion of the year I visit the Welsh mines, those of the Isle of Man, and the collieries which have been opened under the sea in the north of England, and in the Firth of Forth in Scotland, besides carrying out some important inspections and examinations of mine books in the county of Cornwall, where some of the mines are worked under the sea, and some come under the Commissioners of Woods and Forests.

3033. What else do you do; do you regulate the leases?—I have to advise and send in reports (sometimes very elaborate) upon them, loaded with a good deal of correspondence with respect to reductions which have to be made and charges which are applied for of various kinds.

3034. Do the local agents for the Woods and Forests report to you at all as to the modes in which the mines are worked?—They generally report direct to the Commissioner.

3035. Then the more ordinary routine of the mineral property does not come before you?—

3036. It is only when special circumstances arise that you are consulted?—Yes.

3037. The bulk of the mineral property is in Wales, is it not?—A very large portion of it.

3038. In Cornwall do the mines of the Duchy go under the sea belong to the Woods and Forests?—They do. As soon as they get to low water mark, *prima facie*, the mineral becomes the property of the Queen.

3039. You have no mines in Cornwall except those that are under the sea, have you?—No, not now. There used to be some, but the property was sold.

3040. Does the same rule apply on the Firth of Forth?—It does.

3041. But there is some other mineral property in Scotland, is there not, in addition to mines under the sea?—There is nothing that has been working for some time past except such mines.

3042. Is there any mineral property in the north of England, in Durham or Northumberland?—There is a very important series of mines which are worked in the same way, under the sea, and there are several collieries, as, for instance, at Chopwell Woods, and in South Durham and two in Yorkshire, which are also worked under the Commissioners of Woods and Forests.

Chairman—continued.

Forests, which I visit and where I inspect the books and keep a check upon the royalties which are to be paid in.

3043. You do not interfere at all with the Forest of Dean, do you?—Yes, most of the questions are referred to me in conjunction with the deputy gaveller; and I have at times visited underground all the iron mines, and a great portion of the collieries which are working; so that in the event of any difficulties arising I feel pretty familiar with the nature of the ground, and discuss the matter with the deputy gaveller, so that we may form joint conclusions on the subject.

3044. I suppose the principle of the letting generally is reserving a royalty?—It is.

3045. You never sell the mine at so much an acre, do you?—That has only been in two cases in Yorkshire, where it is the prevalent custom in the neighbourhood. I might add, too, that the royalty in the metalliferous mines, as in Cornwall and Wales, is almost uniformly a proportional part of the sum at which the ores are sold prepared for market. In the colliery districts it is more usual to put a money value per ton or per "Ten," as the case may be.

3046. As lessor you have a fixed royalty of so much per ton?—Yes.

3047. But in Wales you have a variable royalty, varying according to the selling price of the coal, or whatever the mineral may be?—Quite so.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3048. Before I come to Wales, which you and I are both familiar with, there are one or two questions I should like to ask you about the general duties which you perform under the Crown. Your duty includes the constant inspection of the working of each of the mines (the coal and the metalliferous mines) throughout the area of your district, does it not?—It includes an inspection from time to time, which is generally annually.

3049. So that that involves a very large amount of labour?—It is so; the workings are so large in some cases that it would require a very great deal of time if they had to be examined throughout at shorter periods. I have brought down, in case the Committee would like to see it, a section of one of those mines under the Woods and Forests; that is the Great Laxey Mine in the Isle of Man. It is a readily intelligible section, and shows the very great extent to which some of those workings are carried out; and, therefore, the great amount of actual labour which is involved in visiting the working places (*handing in the Section, and explaining the same*).

3050. The blue indicates worked-out portions? The blue indicates the portions which are worked completely out. The length here is a little upwards of a mile, and the depth here 270 fathoms from the surface.

3051. Then when you go to the Isle of Man

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Sir W. W. SMYTH, F.R.S.

[Continued]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

you go down and inspect, as a rule, the whole of the workings?—It takes a very long day of very hard climbing to get through the works which are effectually in progress at the present time, leaving out a large proportion of the workings which are shewn on this plan.

3052. The result of your inspection is that you are able to control the working of all these different mines, to see that they are being worked in accordance with the terms of the Crown lease, and to report to the authorities if you see anything being done that is objectionable, and which you think should be looked after?—That is so; that is to see, in fact, that fair play is done to the lessor, as well as to the shareholders.

3053. In addition to these duties of actual inspection, I suppose the Commissioners are constantly referring to you questions connected with fresh arrangements, or modifications, or new mining leases, throughout the whole of your district?—That is so. That constitutes the greater part of one's work, in fact.

3054. And you have to advise the Crown, or rather the Commissioners, constantly in cases where difficulties have arisen with reference to the profitable working of mines, and so on, as to changes and modifications to be introduced into the terms?—Yes, that is so.

3055. A duty which, I suppose, during the last 10 years has been one of considerable difficulty and considerable responsibility, has it not?—I was appointed in 1857 to this office; and since that time, although many of the metaliferous mines have deteriorated in the quantity of ores that they are able to raise, and many of them have been extinguished (those on a smaller scale in Wales, for instance), the work has decidedly increased very largely, owing to so many of the foreshore collieries having come into play, or the collieries under the sea, in the north.

3056. That is particularly the case in those great under-sea workings in the north of England, is it not?—It is so.

3057. Can you give us an idea of the extent to which the workings go under sea in the Northumberland and Durham mines?—They being of more recent origin have not penetrated nearly as far as the workings at Whitehaven on the Cumberland side, in which, starting from the shaft and going to the face of the workings, a distance of about three miles has to be travelled. In the case of the Durham and Northumberland collieries I have brought with me the Ordnance inch map of the district about Sunderland, showing five collieries which extend under the sea from the mouth of the Tyne down to almost the southern end of the coalfield; the respective names are given to the sets which lie there.

3058. I am not sure that I quite understand with reference to these workings. Does the Crown own (either as manorial owner or as owner of the freehold) the inshore, or the inland, part of the colliery, or is it only in respect of its foreshore rights?—Only in respect of its foreshore rights and undersea. In some cases the foreshore is adversely claimed.

3059. Adversely to the Crown?—Yes, adversely to the Crown.

3060. Then in every instance where these deep sea workings are carried out they have originated

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

in collieries which have been sunk upon private land?—Quite so.

3061. Which have exhausted the coalfield outside of the foreshore, and then have passed under the sea by arrangement with the Crown?—Yes, that is so.

3062. Then all the negotiations which I suppose have been made after the colliery has been sunk, and in work for some considerable time with the Crown, have been made since you have been in this position?—Quite so.

3063. And have been made through your advice, and upon your inspection?—Entirely.

3064. I suppose in no case did these great collieries make any provisional arrangement before they were started with reference to the sea workings?—Some of them have done so.

3065. Now; lately?—Now; lately.

3066. But originally it was an afterthought, was it not?—Generally they were started to work only the land portion, but as soon as that land portion became a good deal exhausted, it was necessary for them to look further afield, and then they began to make applications to get a mile or two miles in breadth, which was ultimately increased to three miles in breadth, from the shore; and there is great uncertainty, of course, as to what the coalfield may consist of, and whether getting from the shore, whether the seams might happen to rise again, in which case the coalfield would be cut short. Of those collieries, I may just point out, perhaps, that the Ryhope Colliery is the only one that has been thoroughly successful, but even that has abutted against a very serious fault, which has interfered with its working materially, and I should like to lay upon the table (but it is rather large) the plan of that colliery as it is on the ordinary working section (*producing the plan*). The blue line shows the portion which is under the Office of the Woods and Forests extending out to sea. This is the line of shore. Those are the principal roads which go from the pits, a distance of a mile to the coast; and then these are the workings which have been opened under the sea, including in the first place the primary working in pillars, leaving masses of coal of 40 yards square, and then a portion of those afterwards have been removed where these dark spots are shown.

3067. Having been worked back?—Having been worked out.

3068. Do I understand that in this head the coal measures pass through the solid?—The whole of this is really more or less worked out.

3069. So that this only represents your working heading?—That is the main road (*pointing to the plan*).

3070. But all this area is worked out?—More or less.

3071. It was when this area was worked out and they reached the limit here, that they began to enter into negotiation with the Crown for a view to working under the sea?—Apparently so.

3072. You say that most of these workings have not turned out very successfully?—That has been this great misfortune about several of the undertakings, that the seams of coal were assumed to pass under the sea have turned out far less valuable than was expected.

3073.

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Sir W. W. SMYTH, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

3073. Was there no difficulty with reference to the sea itself; that is to say, with reference to its finding its way into the pit?—There has been in most cases been no difficulty about the water except that in this case (*pointing to the plan*), after finding a magnificent seam of coal throughout all the strata, better even than it had been under the shore, it was abutted upon a great fault here which threw down a vast quantity of extremely salt water, and frightened people very much. It was not, however, that it was rather more salt than the sea, and it gradually bled off, so that having taken every precaution to prevent any slips of the ground above, they have left this for a considerable length of time, in order to get at the further seam by other means, such as driving from the surface in a deeper seam of coal, the Hutton coal; the seam being the "Maudlin" seam, which they have been able to get by a deeper level from another point.

3074. That brings me to the point which really is the material point; in all these negotiations you had to advise the Crown as to the terms on which this coal should be let?—Quite so.

3075. You have had also to deal, I suppose, with those adverse claims that have been made with respect of foreshore rights?—The matter was discussed principally with the late Mr. E. J. Smyth, who acted for the property of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners which extends along a considerable portion of this coast.

Sir William Harcourt.

3076. As a matter of curiosity, I should like to know this: the question I remember was asked, but I do not recollect how it was followed; where the sea comes up to the cliff, and there is a high and low water mark, what are the rights of the Crown as to a mine going under the sea or those circumstances?—That case occurs in the wall.

3077. At Botallack?—At Botallack and at the other mine which is working now very largely under the sea, in the same neighbourhood, where the foreshore is a narrow strip, but here in the Ham the foreshore is of very considerable extent, usually 200 or 300 yards.

3078. I wanted to know how it was settled in the case of the Botallack mine; was the right of the Crown established to the minerals under the sea where there was no foreshore?—It was so; wherever there is a foreshore a small royalty is paid to the Duchy of Cornwall out of the dues on the minerals which are obtained from under the sea.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3079. By arrangement?—Just so.

3080. Then with reference to all these interests of the Crown in these mineral properties, as I understand the Commissioners take your advice and recommendation on all questions which arise?—I think it has almost universally been so.

3081. And particularly in the last 10 years, during the depression of the coal trade, there have been very difficult and complicated questions submitted for your consideration?—There have been many of them; and some of them I am to say are still pending.

3082. I am concerned to find out something about Wales. A statement has been put in by Mr. Culley about which, I daresay, you will not disagree.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

be able to give much information as to some points. You act as agent for the Crown; you are their adviser with reference to all their mineral rights, are you not?—Yes.

3083. Slate?—Slates.

3084. Stone?—Stone.

3085. Metalliferous?—Metalliferous and stone mines and quarries.

3086. Coal?—And coal; the coal in Wales which is connected with the Crown being of very small extent, indeed.

3087. And also, have you advised the Crown with reference to its rights as to the precious metals; gold and silver?—Yes. I think I have been pretty well qualified to do so; because when on the Geological Survey I was with Sir Henry De-la-Bèche in North Wales. We visited and examined very closely, in 1847, the first place in which gold had been found, very shortly before that time; and since then I have had very frequent opportunities of looking at the whole question.

3088. You were not the adviser to the Crown at the time when the first attempt was made to extract gold in Wales, some 20 or 30 years ago, were you?—The first attempt was about the year 1846. Then I was not the adviser to the Crown. The second was about 1854, and I was not then in office; but I had opportunity afterwards, on being appointed in 1857, to look through very carefully the whole of the workings that up to that time had been made, to obtain particulars as far as it was possible, of what gold had been raised, and to form conclusions as to what should be done.

3089. If you do not mind I will just take you through the statement of Mr. Culley's, and ask you with reference to the different kinds of mineral rights. Take the county of Anglesea: I see the mineral Crown property in Anglesea seems to be very small judging by the receipts?—It is so; I may say, in brief, that my attention has never been called to matters in Anglesea, except on Holyhead Mountain, which I have visited two or three times for the purpose of forming a conclusion on the value of minerals said to be found there.

3090. Of course you are simply the adviser upon the special questions of the department?—Quite so.

3091. You know nothing about the administration or the property itself. You simply are called in to advise the Crown as to what it shall do with reference to a particular mineral property?—Quite so.

3092. And it is only when you are expressly asked to address your attention to a particular property, that you in any way have anything to do with the mineral property in Wales or elsewhere?—Except that I make a practice of, once in the year, visiting all the different works which are in actual prosecution at the time.

3093. Take Carnarvonshire; I think in Carnarvonshire there are very large quarries?—Very large slate quarries; also sett quarries, hardstone quarries.

3094. Which belong to the Woods and Forests?—Yes.

3095. Upon what terms are they generally let?—The quarries for sett stones are let at a certain amount per ton, usually about 3 *d.* a ton;

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Sir W. W. SMYTH, F.R.S.

[Continued]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

but the slate quarries are let at a proportional part of the sums which are obtained by sale.

3096. There is a minimum rent, is there not?—There is a minimum rent; but it is generally placed at a moderate figure.

3097. There is the Penmaenmawr Quarry?—That is one of the largest.

3098. Messrs. Brundrit and Whiteway?—Yes. That is the largest concern of the kind in Carnarvonshire.

3099. They have a lease, I see, of 288 acres at Penmaenmawr on a 21 years' lease. They pay a minimum royalty of 400 *l.*, and they pay a royalty of 3 *d.* a ton?—Yes; they always exceed very largely the minimum royalty.

3100. I observe they paid 858 *l.* last year?—Yes, they generally employ upwards of 300 men there.

3101. I suppose that is the prevailing royalty that is obtained by private owners. There are large private owners of quarries, I believe, in Carnarvonshire?—It is very much the same.

3102. In advising the Office of Woods and Forests upon any new lease, I presume you would be guided by your large experience of what the prevailing terms are in any particular county?—Quite so. One endeavours, as far as possible, to place the royalties upon the same footing.

3103. We come to another quarry, a slate quarry, 182 acres, let to Messrs. Williams and Pugh. There we come to a proportionate amount; the royalty is one-sixteenth?—Yes.

3104. With a minimum royalty for the first three years of 200 *l.* a-year, and for the subsequent years under a lease of 31 years, they are to pay 300 *l.* a-year. I see they have worked just up to and beyond their minimum royalty, 337 *l.* That is the prevailing method of adjusting the royalties in leases of slate, is it?—It is very general; at the same time there are also other ways of obtaining the royalty.

3105. Is it a fixed royalty?—It is in some cases a fixed money rate upon slates of certain sizes; but I should mention that it has been found necessary during the last few years to reduce the rates considerably, in consequence of the very numerous applications on the part of the lessees, and the bad trade which they have had for so many years in all the slate quarries, with one or two exceptions.

3106. That, I suppose, has been a general deduction or a concession which has been generally made both by the Office of Woods and by private owners?—It has been so all through.

3107. And in making these concessions, about which I presume you have always been consulted, you have endeavoured, as far as possible, to arrive at the same extent of concession as has generally been made by private owners?—It has always been discussed very carefully between myself and the local agent on visiting the slate quarries; and I think we have generally succeeded in bringing them to a fair state of satisfactory progress now.

3108. With reference to this proportionate royalty, one-sixteenth, how is it arrived at; how is the account kept?—The local agent inspects the books and sees the prices at which the various parcels of slate are sold.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

3109. Is that Mr. Bowen?—Mr. Bowen.

3110. He is the local agent for the county of Denbigh, Anglesea, Carnarvonshire, and Merioneth, and he is required to visit and inspect the Crown mines in his district at least once a year, and, when necessary, to attend and certify the weighing or measuring of minerals raised and gotten, and to examine and certify the accounts furnished by leases, licences, &c., and I suppose, under your control more or less, to advise upon applications for mineral leases in that district?—We generally discuss the matter in common.

3111. I notice that Mr. Bowen has been receiving lately evidently a larger remuneration than he had been in the habit of getting before. He "is allowed, out of the sums paid by applicants for the preparation of taking notes, a fee of 1 *l.* 1 *s.* in each case, for the map or plan attached thereto"?—I may, perhaps, say that Mr. Bowen has had an amazing amount of work thrown upon him during the last two or three years by the gold discoveries and the alluvial gold discoveries.

Sir William Harcourt.

3112. Might I ask you this question: Is the royalty upon the gold in Wales has been fixed by your advice, has it not?—It has.

3113. That is to say, the Commissioners have followed your scientific advice in the royalty they have fixed?—I believe so.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3114. Mr. Bowen has had a great deal of work has he not, with reference to the excitement which has cropped up on the applications for licences to work the gold quartz rock?—Yes; no doubt the work has become much more onerous during the last two or three years.

3115. The gold deposit has been found on freehold land which belongs to private owners, has it not?—In some cases, but not in the important ones which were brought forward some years ago. In one case, the case of Mount Morgan, it is so, but in other cases it was Crown land.

3116. Mount Morgan is a private property, is it?—It is.

3117. The freehold property of a private owner?—Yes.

3118. In that case of course, before the private venturers can search for, and work the rock to extract the gold, they must arrange with the private owner as to his royalty, and the royalty is by virtue of the Crown rights, they must consult the Crown and arrange with the Crown for the privilege of working the gold under the land which is long to the private owner?—The adverse claimer has no right to remove it from the soil, to detach it from the soil, without having a licence from the Crown.

3119. So that in the case of the private property there would be two interests to be dealt with, the interests of the private owner and the interest of the Crown, by virtue of its right to prerogative metals?—Yes, that is so.

3120. In other cases, the gold has been discovered upon property which belongs to the Crown. In the most remarkable case which has occurred, the

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[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

hitherto, that of the Clogau mine, the discovery was made upon Crown land and worked entirely upon that. That was in the years from 1854 to about 1865, the principal part of the active workings being in the years 1861, 1862, and 1863.

Sir William Harcourt.

3121. Are they getting any gold now?—They are getting some at the Morgan Mine, and they are occasionally at the Clogau Mine seeing specks of visible gold; but I am afraid that out of some 500 different projected mines not more than three or four of them are actually doing legitimate mining. The others are mostly waiting for a discovery to be made, and then for an excitement and a sale.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3122. A good many licenses have been taken, have they not?—A great number.

3123. Upon what terms are the licenses granted by the Crown?—They used to be 5 *l.* each, but I think that of late the cost has been reduced to 3 *l.* The district in which these old discoveries have been chiefly made is Merionethshire.

3124. The license is issued there for 3 *l.* is it?—Yes; or 5 *l.* in other parts.

3125. That is a license to explore?—That is a license to explore, and the royalty is fixed at one-fifteenth, if it is on Crown land; but in order to interest the landowner in the case of private lands, the Crown has consented to receive one-twentieth, leaving one-thirtieth also for him.

3126. Giving him half the one-fifteenth?—Giving him half the royalty.

3127. When the mine has been established, and the work is going on and gold is being extracted, it is on the terms that where it is extracted from Crown land they pay one-fifteenth of the net produce?—One-fifteenth of the gross produce; net, one may call it, inasmuch as the gold is extracted from the matrix.

3128. It is the ore extracted?—Yes.

3129. One-fifteenth of the gold extracted goes to the Crown?—One-fifteenth of the actual metal value goes to the Crown in Crown land.

3130. There is no minimum royalty, if I may put it in that way; they must pay the one-fifteenth whatever gold is obtained; that during the first year they only got 30 *l.* worth of gold, they are bound to render to the Crown one-fifteenth of the gold which is extracted?—Yes; and that, I should say, is a considerable reduction from what used to be the case, inasmuch as we know, from the old histories, that the Crown used generally to get one-tenth, very often with other proportion to be given to the landowner, and sometimes with a proportion to be given to Holy Church; but for many years past (as, for instance, when I was first appointed to this office) the usual royalty has been one-twelfth, though in a general way for the difficulties of low prices, bad times, and so on, one may say that that one-twelfth has now been very commonly reduced to one-fifteenth.

Sir William Harcourt.

3131. What was the charge in Sutherlandshire; was it the same in Sutherlandshire?—I believe so. 103.

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

it was the same; but so very little was found there that there is very little to be said about it. That was not mining. It was simply picking it up out of the sand and gravel.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3132. Has any real work been done under any of these licenses upon Crown property; has any machinery been put up?—I believe I could count up upon my fingers the cases in which really mining work has been done.

3133. *Bonâ fide* mining work?—*Bonâ fide* mining work.

3134. Mining work involving a great expenditure of capital?—Yes; those cases might be counted up on one's fingers, I think.

3135. You could not give us an idea of the amount of capital which has been spent upon Crown land in this way?—The chief amount would be in the driving of levels and the sinking of shafts. With respect to the Clogau Mine, one might have got the particulars; but I am unable to give the total sum.

3136. They spent a good deal of money there, I believe?—They did in the years which I mentioned just now, from about 1861 to about 1864; but on the other hand they did not except in five or six instances put up any very large amount of machinery.

3137. I do not know whether it is quite fair to ask you your opinion as to the real mercantile commercial value of the gold. You have, of course, had submitted to you specimens of the rock containing the gold which has been found lately, have you not?—Many years ago I formed a very decided opinion upon the subject, which I think I may insist upon from knowing the district probably better than anybody else, having seen it at so many different intervals, and having examined the greater part of the veins wherever they are visible, with great care. I think it comes to this, that there is nothing which can be called a gold field. There is nothing into which you might put a great number of diggers for instance to work upon alluvium or anything of that kind, but there are a great number of lodes which are extremely uncertain in their yield, which in spots here and there have a very nice show of gold (sometimes to the extent of giving you six or eight ounces to a ton of material; sometimes as in the case of Clogau going above 100 ounces to the ton of material); but those spots are not only extremely uncertain but curiously scattered through the veins, and where the intermediate parts (although at first many counter statements were made), are unfortunately generally completely unprovided with any mineral matter of value. So that after dealing with a portion rewarding you well for the extraction of the gold you may have to deal with many fathoms of vein-rock of considerable hardness which contains nothing whatever of value.

3138. Of course you have a very large scientific knowledge of the subject and possibly have large practical experience; is it sufficient to enable you to judge whether similar conditions exist in other parts of the world with reference to the extracting of gold and of silver; that is to say, do similar conditions exist where it has been found possible by spending a good deal of capital

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[Continued]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

and adopting proper mechanical contrivances and machinery (even though the gold seemed scattered in this way) to make it a profitable business?—I would say that the distribution of the gold in the veins is very similar in foreign countries to what it is here, but that perhaps it may be stated that there are districts in which the gold is more uniformly disseminated through the vein, the poorer parts of it being still worth working, whereas, as far as my experience goes, there are large masses of those veins in Wales producing nothing which is worth treatment.

3139. Entirely barren?—Practically so.

3140. Much more so than in other countries where, though it is not uniformly distributed, they are able, taking ton by ton, to extract gold at a profit?—I am afraid the great weakness of the Welsh gold-field (as it has been called) is that there are large bodies of vein stone (where the vein is continuous, that is to say), where though metallic substances may be present in small quantity, the gold is too little to make it worth while to extract it.

3141. That being so, you do not unhesitatingly say that you do not consider the gold could, under any conditions, be worked profitably?—Quite the contrary. I have always thought that there are places in North Wales which may be worked profitably as long as the operations are carried out by skilful persons, and with proper economy, but then the circumstances under which the companies are brought out renders it almost impossible for them to be successful as commercial undertakings. It has been very much, for instance, brought forward of late that the Government has acted very hardly in requiring so large a proportion as royalty; and people have pointed out that in Spain and various other countries the royalty is so small as to be scarcely observable; and the whole thing rests, as it seems to me, upon an entire fallacy. In Spain, and various other countries, it is very true that if an adventurer comes (the first man) to a certain place, he has the old right of free mining, which, I say, people have now in North Wales, of going to the proper authorities and getting for a small amount a piece of ground in which he is to work; but when you really go to Spain with the object of working, you find that the district there in which this law holds good, viz., that you have merely a nominal rent to pay, has been entirely removed from your action by other persons having come in first who are already holding this land; so that when you see a tract which would induce you to spend capital upon it it is very apt to be the case that you find, "Oh, this land has been taken up by Mr. So-and-So, of such-and-such a town, and you must go to him and make what terms you can with him." Here I have a prospectus of what was brought out last week, or only a fortnight ago, in which the Guadarrama Gold Mine, to the north of Madrid, required a capital for the company of 130,000 £. Why should they require that, if they had a piece of ground to take in hand with nothing but a nominal rent to pay? It is because somebody has got hold of the ground already (here is a plan of it), and out of that sum the price to be paid for the property has been fixed at 97,000 £. If out of the 130,000 £. they have to take 97,000 £. to pay for

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

the property, it is pretty evident that there is a millstone hung round the neck of the company which they cannot get rid of. There is a large amount (suppose you put it at 5 per cent.) to be paid in interest, and the company would probably be able to scarcely find gold enough, unless the place was exceptionally rich, to reward them.

3142. Is that sum of 97,000 £. a sum which is to be paid to some individual, or to some body of men who have obtained by this law that exists in Spain a kind of right to a particular area?—Quite so.

3143. They have gone to the Government and they have taken it up?—Yes, and have got nothing except the fees payable to the Government agents.

3144. Having got possession of it, then they claim the right of dealing with it as they please?—They seek to make a market out of it.

3145. They do very much what the free miners does in the Forest of Dean?—Very much. I would compare with that what has taken place in North Wales. Here is the prospectus of a certain gold-mining company which gets a licence to work gold, and they raise a capital of 210,000 £. out of which 190,000 £. is to be given to the promoter, who has no doubt to put some money upon it, but whose bonus of 190,000 £. (giving you, even at 5 per cent., nearly 10,000 £. a year interest to pay) renders it almost impossible that the company should ever succeed as a commercial undertaking.

3146. Then you say that no concession would you could give to the individual is of any advantage to the individual gets a right which he is able to use in this way?—It renders it almost impossible that a gold mine in Wales, should be a commercial success. The Crown at one-thirtieth, or one-fifteenth even, takes but a few pounds; if it is a schemer who has got up the company and takes 100,000 £. or 190,000 £., it is quite clear that the proportion payable as interest upon the money even at a very moderate rate would completely out-weigh any expense that is charged by the Crown for royalty, license fees, and other things, that it is scarcely possible that the undertaking can succeed.

3147. I do not know whether you know anything about our Australian colonies, and how the thing is worked there; my impression is (I do not know whether I am right) that in our colonies the Colonial Government does not exact any license or royalty. If gold is found in a particular district, certain fees are paid by the first claimer and he obtains an allotment, if I may call it that, for what it is called; there is some technical name for it; then he forms a kind of small partnership with a few others, and they set out to work and explore; then if it develops into a large and profitable and very rich mine, it is formed into a company?—I believe that is the case. At the same time it must be remembered that the authorities, with the object of inducing the discovery of the ground to be taken up as rapidly as possible, have divided it in the first place into very small areas; so that a mining adventurer has a right to take up one or more of those small areas, for which he pays, in some instances, I believe, a small rent. He is in most cases subjected to pay a kind of poll tax; he, in fact, has to pay sometimes a rather heavy sum upon every

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[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

is employed; so that a considerable income obtained in that way, which it might be very difficult in that state of society to obtain by way of royalty.

3148. You think they could not levy it, as a matter of fact, even if they imposed it, in the way which it is levied here in this country; you think the state of things there is so disorganised and unorganised that if they did impose a royalty they would not get it?—That has no doubt to be seriously considered.

3149. Then, on the whole, do you think it would tend to promote legitimate enterprise in this direction if the Office of the Woods and Forests were to grant licenses under certain conditions wherever gold was supposed to be worked to a profit; and impose a fair royalty upon the gross produce if you like, but make it a condition that it should not be payable until the produce of the enterprise had reached a certain annual sum which would fairly represent a profit on the undertaking; you see the complaint which appears to be made is that the Government exacts this royalty, whatever the result of the working is, and whatever the result of the produce may be; do you, or do you not say, that it is scarcely reasonable, and that it would only be fair that the Government should wait until a certain amount of profitable work had resulted from the expenditure of the capital?—I think, under the present arrangement of licenses, that as a man who raises no gold is not required to pay anything, the moderate proportion which is fixed for the royalty, of one-tenth in the Crown land, and the half of that in private lands, is not so heavy as to interfere at all materially with any legitimate mining.

Sir William Harcourt.

3150. Let me ask you one question upon that; Mr. Williams asks you whether the royalty ought to be postponed until some profit has been obtained upon the working; but, as I understand to say, these companies start charged with a tremendous sum to the promoter, 190,000 *l.* out of 10,000 *l.*, in the case you have just mentioned; surely it would not be fair that you should wait to make the charge until the promoter has pocketed his interest on the 190,000 *l.*, which is his share of the affair?—I quite see

3151. When you are talking of a concern in mining profit, you must consider what is the capital with which it starts, and if it starts with an enormous amount of promotion money, then you have no reason whatever for postponing the charge upon the profits, have you? I think if the adventurers are not charged anything until they have actually raised some money; if, when they have raised 15 lb. weight, for instance, of gold, they have to pay 1 lb. in royalties, the charge can hardly be considered excessive; and as to waiting until an actual commercial profit is made, it would be an extremely complicated and difficult matter to determine when the profit begins.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

3152. It is about the usual royalty as compared with other minerals, is it not?—It is; especially, I should add, considering the fact that the whole of these workings are of a very simple kind, usually done by adit levels, without the necessity of sinking shafts or putting up pumping machinery.

Chairman.

3153. Just before we leave this gold-mining question, let me put this to you: This prospectus relates to a property of 137 acres; now, did that property belong to the Crown, or was it property belonging to a private owner?—This I believe, belongs to a private owner.

3154. Then he pays a royalty to the ground landlord, and the rental and royalty upon it, say, cannot exceed 400 *l.* per annum?—That is a private arrangement which has been made between them.

3155. But we will take it that that represents the extreme value of the property, 400 *l.* a year; then we are told *here* that there has been an expenditure altogether of 45,000 *l.*; that is the statement that 45,000 *l.* has been the estimated amount expended by the vendor up to the present time; then we are told that this property is expected to produce 16,000 ounces of gold per annum, and that the cost of working it is 8,000 *l.* a year; 16,000 ounces out of 8,000 tons, and the cost is 1 *l.* per ton; that would show working expenses of 8,000 *l.* a year. They then say that the gross result would be 55,000 *l.*, showing a net profit of 47,200 *l.* These are their figures. Now how much would be paid to the Crown assuming all that to be true? They say that they expect to get 16,000 ounces of gold; now what would you claim out of that?—One-thirtieth part of its value. At 3 *l.* 10 *s.* per ounce that would be 1,865 *l.*

3156. Then assuming all these figures to be true, the royalty payable to the Crown upon a property which is producing a net profit of 47,000 *l.* a year would be only 1,800 *l.*?—Yes.

3157. And you do not think that that is an exorbitant charge for the Crown to make, 1,800 *l.* a year on 47,000 *l.*?—I think considering what the rentals and royalties on minerals generally are, that would be a very fair charge.

3158. And of that amount, only 45,000 *l.* represent outlay?—Yes, with only 45,000 *l.* outlay, and I think one may say of the calculations in prospectuses generally, *credat Judaeus*.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3159. You have described to the Committee the various duties that you perform as the adviser to the Woods and Forests. May I ask what is the annual remuneration which you receive for your services?—£. 800.

Chairman.

3160. That is a salary?—Yes; that is a regular salary.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3161. You have no fees?—No fees whatever.

3162. No commissions?—No commissions. I am allowed 6 *d.* a mile for travelling expenses.

Tuesday, 16th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.
Mr. Charles Hall.

Sir William Harcourt.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Isaacs.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Arthur Williams.

MR. HENRY H. FOWLER, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. SPENCER W. GORE, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

3163. You are one of the Receivers acting under the Commission of Woods and Forests?—Yes.

3164. How long have you held that position?—Since September 1880.

3165. Are you in practice on your own account?—Yes.

3166. Are you a member of a firm?—The firm of Smith and Gore.

3167. Where do you carry on your practice?—My London office is at 16, Whitehall-place. We have another office at Darlington, and another office at Chester.

3168. Then are you in general practice as land surveyors, in addition to your appointment under the Crown?—Yes, we are.

3169. You carry on practice in London, at Chester, and at Darlington?—Yes.

3170. May I ask whether you act for any other public body?—We act for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

3171. Do you receive rents for them also?—We receive rents for them also.

3172. And manage their estates?—And manage their estates.

3173. Do you act for any other public body?—No.

3174. But you also have private clients?—We have a small number of private clients. Our private business is small.

3175. We may take it then really that the bulk of your time is devoted either to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or to the Woods and Forests?—That is so.

3176. How many partners have you?—Two.

3177. What district is under your charge?—The north of England. I believe you have a map.

3178. Yes?—It comprises the northern counties, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Durham.

3179. You take the northern division, which includes Chester, Cumberland, Derby, Durham, Lancaster, Northumberland, Nottingham, Westmoreland, and York?—That is so.

3180. Are you the Steward of the Crown Manors in those districts as well?—Yes, I am. There are only two manors.

Chairman—continued.

3181. What is the gross acreage of the Crown estates under your charge?—Twenty-one thousand acres.

3182. Is that agricultural land?—Agricultural land.

3183. It is entirely agricultural land, is it? That is entirely agricultural land; there are also 3,183 acres of wood land.

3184. Where are those woods?—One is Dymore Wood, near Chester; the other, the Choppell Wood, near Newcastle.

3185. You have nothing whatever to do with mines, have you?—I have the collection of certain mines rents, amounting to 5,282 l.

3186. Per annum?—Per annum; about.

3187. Are those in Durham?—The Chopwell mines are in Durham, and there are some mines in Lancaster.

3188. What is the gross amount of the agricultural rental which you receive?—The gross agricultural rental is 29,199 l., about. It varies, of course, from year to year, but that was the amount collected last year.

3189. That, I suppose, represents the present rental, after the agricultural depression?—It does. (See *Appendix*.)

3190. It would be, I suppose, 6,000 l. more formerly?—It used to be.

3191. Ten years ago?—Yes.

3192. About 30,000 l. in round figures?—Yes, at present.

3193. What is your remuneration for that?—How are you paid?—I am paid by a poundage which varies from 2½ per cent. to 4 per cent.

3194. On what do you get the 4 per cent?—On some of the agricultural rents I get 4 per cent.; and on some of the mineral rents. On some of the agricultural rents I get 2½ per cent. and on some of the mineral rents 2½ per cent.

3195. I suppose you receive the 2½ per cent. on properties which are in a ring fence, and on a considerable acreage?—That is so.

3196. Then have you any other emolument?—Yes; there are certain bills every year for improvements, superintending drainage, and carrying out buildings.

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Mr. GORE.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

3197. Last year, I think, according to the return we have before us, the gross amount (I suppose including everything you received) was 1,471 l. 9 s. 9 d.; is that correct?—That is so.

3198. Does anybody pay you any fee outside that?—No.

3199. That represents the entire amount that you receive, does it?—That is the entire amount I receive from the Crown or through the Crown.

3200. And for that you receive all the rents, you manage all the estates, you look after all the repairs, you arrange all new tenancies, you settle all disputes with existing tenants, and you generally take the complete supervision of the Crown property (of course, subject to the Commissioners), as an agent of a nobleman would do?—That is so.

3201. Can you give us any idea what your disbursements are in respect of that 1,400 l. a year?—Perhaps it would be as well for me to put in the amount on which I pay income tax (*handing in a document*).

3202. I will take these items one by one; you put your travelling and hotel expenses at about 2 l.?—That is a very variable sum, because it very much depends on circumstances. I should not charge full travelling expenses on the Crown business, supposing I had other business at the same time; therefore the travelling expenses is very much a variable sum.

3203. Last year you estimated them at 92 l.?—Yes.

3204. Then you charge a proportion of the rent of your offices; you reckon that the fair proportion chargeable to the Woods and Forests is about 100 l.?—That is the proportion of my London office. That would not include a proportion of either my Darlington office or my Chester office.

3205. Now we come to the more important item; you put your proportion of clerks' salaries at 350 l.?—Yes, that is so; I consider that that is under-estimated now. That was the amount that it was originally put at by my predecessor, but I could certainly say that, since the agricultural depression has come about, that item is very much under-estimated.

3206. You think there has been more correspondence and more clerical work?—A great deal more personal supervision, and a great deal more clerical work, and a great deal more work to my local offices.

3207. Then, putting these figures together, you estimate that the net amount received by you as receiver, irrespective of your bills, is about 70 l.?—Yes; that was for last year.

3208. And, adding to that your bills of 300 l., would make your remuneration between 900 l. and 1,000 l. net?—No; from the bills would have to be deducted the travelling expenses and the expenses of local agents. I should not put down at that. I should certainly not put it down at anywhere near that.

3209. We will put it in this way on the evidence: so far as your income as receiver is concerned, you do not consider it is worth to you more than 670 l.; the surveyorship stands upon its own footing?—Yes; I could safely say it was 0.103.

Chairman—continued.

not more than that, but I should estimate it now as being less.

3210. I see that this remuneration of yours has been steadily going down; in 1881 it was as high as 2,700 l.; that year, 1881, seems to have been an exceptional year; do you know any reason why it should have been so; perhaps it is due to extra work as surveyor?—As far as I am concerned, only half the year is charged to me.

3211. That would be before your time?—Yes, that would be before my time.

3212. Then I will not ask you about it?—In the amount of acreage that is under your control, have you any farms on hand?—I have none.

3213. How often do you hold a rent audit?—Twice a year.

3214. Where do you hold those rent audits?—At the town nearest to the different estates.

3215. I presume you have six or seven places, at least?—Yes, at least.

3216. Are the bulk of the rents paid at the audits?—Yes, the bulk of the rents are paid at the audits. It used to be nearly always a clean sheet, but in these days there are arrears.

3217. Do you make any regular visits of inspection to the whole property?—Very frequent visits.

3218. May we take it that you see the whole of the property, at all events, once a year?—A good deal more than that.

3219. A great deal more than that?—Yes.

3220. When you receive your rents you pay them in to a separate banking account, do you not?—I pay them in to my separate Crown banking account at the London and Westminster Bank, of which this is the pass-book (*handing in the same*).

3221. Then from time to time, as this balance grows, you diminish it by payments to the Receiver General?—I pay it to the Receiver General whenever I have a balance materially over 500 l.

3222. Do you pay direct to the Receiver General, or do you pay to the Bank of England to the account of the Commissioners?—Direct to the Receiver General always.

3223. All your payments go through Mr. Higgins, and are not paid by you to the Bank of England?—That is so.

3224. I see at the end of the half-year, 30th June of this year, the balance in your banking account was about 334 l.?—Yes, I daresay it would be.

3225. In December it was rather more; it was 2,300 l.; was there anything special about that?—Probably I should have paid in.

3226. You paid in on the 2nd January 2,000 l.?—On the 2nd January; that would diminish it.

3227. There are no charges, I see, in this pass-book of any interest?—Oh, no.

3228. You derive no profit whatever from it?—Neither I nor my firm have ever derived any profit whatever from any public moneys or other moneys which have been in our hands.

3229. Have you considered the question at all of the outlying properties?—Very often I have. It would be a great advantage in some cases to sell outlying properties; but, unfortunately, the

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Mr. GORE.

[Cont.]

Chairman—continued.

outlying properties would be the most difficult to dispose of.

3230. Let us proceed by steps. As a matter of general principle, you think it would be to the interest of the Commissioners to get rid of their outlying properties and consolidate their estates?—Certainly.

3231. And that they would be more efficiently managed and more cheaply managed; they would be more in a ring fence?—Yes, certainly.

3232. You say there is some special difficulty in selling the outlying properties; do you think it arises from their being inferior properties?—Yes; the best part of the Crown property under my charge is certainly that which is most in a ring fence.

3233. Do you apprehend any serious difficulty in selling these outlying properties, if there was a determination to sell?—I imagine that if the bulk of those outlying properties were offered at auction they would not produce a bid of any sufficient magnitude to allow the Commissioners to sell them to the advantage of the Crown revenues.

3234. Just explain that. I suppose they would fetch a bid or a price according to their present income?—I do not think they would fetch above 15 years' purchase, or something like that, some of them; they might fetch more.

3235. Would you be able to buy at that price elsewhere?—Not anywhere in the vicinity of the existing Crown properties; that is to say, the better part of the existing Crown properties.

3236. Have you ever had any instructions from the Commissioners with respect to sales?—I have often talked it over with the Commissioner, when he has been going over those estates.

3237. But beyond talk it has never been dealt with; that is to say, in a business point of view, on the ground that it was desirable to sell the property, and action taken accordingly?—No, action certainly has never been taken.

3238. You have never made a written report even upon it?—No.

3239. Neither to the Commissioners nor to the Treasury?—No.

3240. Your opinion has never been officially asked upon this question?—No.

3241. But if the property could be satisfactorily sold, you think it would be to the advantage of the estate?—Certain of the properties, certainly.

3242. In selecting tenants, what guides you; do you let the properties by tender or by advertisement?—Since I have been receiver there have been very few changes of tenancy. I have occasionally advertised farms at the end of the lease, but in nearly every case either the existing tenant has taken on the farms, or a relative has taken it; a son, perhaps.

3243. A sort of hereditary tenant-right?—A sort of hereditary tenant-right.

3244. I do not quite understand whether during the whole of your time you have had any farms in hand?—I had one small farm of about 100 acres in hand for six months. That is the only one I have had.

3245. During the whole of this depression?—During the whole of this depression.

3246. May we take it from that fact that the

Chairman—continued.

rents are very fair rents, so far as the tenants concerned, and liberal to the tenants?—They are fair rents. I do not think the tenants if you were to ask them, would say that they were under-rented.

3247. Nor over-rented?—I do not know, cannot answer for that.

3248. I suppose you have made reductions of your own accord?—I have advised reductions and considerable reductions.

3249. Considerable reductions have been made?—Yes.

3250. The mineral property, I suppose stationary?—The mineral property is variable according to whether the tenants are working the mines, or whether they are only paying dead-rent.

3251. What is the state of the mineral property now; is it pretty good?—The returns are better than they have been.

3252. Who assists you in the management of the mineral property?—I do not have the management of that; Sir Warrington Smyth certifies as to the workings.

3253. He certifies the amount that they have to pay for royalty, and you collect it?—That is so.

3254. And any question referring to the management of the mines would go to Sir Warrington Smyth?—Certainly.

3255. With reference to new buildings, is your custom as to plans?—The new buildings during my time have been very few. There have been principally additions to old buildings as covered yards. There is a great demand for covered yards and for hay barns; but I have not put up any complete set of buildings since I have been receiver.

3256. In the case of additions, do you send the plans and send them down?—Yes; a plan would be prepared, and builders would be invited to send estimates, and then I consider which was the best; and the final plan which goes into the Office of Woods would be prepared. A rough working plan would be prepared in the first instance.

3257. Local builders, you mean, would be invited to tender?—Yes; it is not always a tender, sometimes it is an estimate. They each send in a detailed estimate.

3258. Who superintends the execution of the works?—Either I or one of my local agents.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

3259. You have spoken of local agents; you say you visit every part of the property every year, or oftener?—Yes.

3260. Besides the new buildings, what are the local agents responsible for?—From time to time as any occasion might occur that I am unable to attend myself, I should send the local agent to inquire into any particular case.

3261. It is merely when you are not in the country that you inquire into it personally that you do so?—Yes.

3262. As I understand you, these men are regular agents?—The local agents are not regular agents; they are part of my staff.

3263. Can you tell me why the outlying properties you are speaking of would only fetch 15 years' purchase at the present time?—

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Sir Joseph Bailey—continued.

I am afraid that some of them would not fetch much. I think there is a general disinclination in those particular districts to purchase land.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4. I do not think you gave us an estimate of the cost of the local agents when you were giving us your other expenses?—No; it would be very difficult to do so. I really could not tell what the cost would be. They are part of the staff, and it would be very difficult to divide the time, as it is so very variable.

5. Would their services be applicable only to surveying charges subject to your examination?—Oh, no; as occasion required, I should send one of my local agents where I could attend myself.

6. But you do not include that in the 350*l.*, do you?—No; I do not include that at all in the

Sir Henry Fletcher.

7. Are the farms let on lease, or yearly agreement?—The farms used to be let on lease, but there are now existing many old leases; but at the present time most of the new lettings have been by yearly agreement.

8. Supposing any ordinary repairs are done, does the tenant contribute anything towards the cost of the repairs?—The tenant is expected to do all the repairs; but in these times of depression I have often had occasion to recommend the Commissioners to do certain repairs as a favour to the tenants. It is impossible in this depressed state to make a hard and fast rule, I have found.

9. Perhaps the tenants do the carting?—In many cases they do the carting.

10. You say you have had no new buildings, do you?—I have not put up any complete set of buildings since I have been Receiver.

Mr. Hobhouse.

11. With regard to these local agents, I understand they are not paid by the Crown?—They are paid by me.

12. And their services in respect to Crown property costs you a certain sum, which is not included by you amongst your outgoings in your figures?—That is so in my income-tax account.

13. It would be in addition to the 542*l.* you mentioned?—It would.

14. Are there any local agents of any kind, however, local managers, or local persons employed by the Crown to look after the property under you?—No; there is a deputy receiver on some of the manors.

15. And they receive the fees from the tenants?—Yes; they receive the fees from the tenants.

16. You receive no fees?—I receive no fees.

17. There are some other officers, are there any in this return; "officer in charge of the manor of Delamere"?—Yes, that is so. There is a woodman and one man under him permanently employed at Delamere, and there is one employed in the wood at Chopwell.

18. Are they ordinary woodmen?—Ordinary woodmen.

13.

Mr. Hobhouse—continued.

3279. Then there is a check receiver at the collieries, I see?—That is so.

3280. He is paid 42*l.* a year?—Yes; and he certifies as to the workings in that case.

3281. Those are the only local agents employed and paid by the Crown?—That is so.

3282. You have given us the outgoings from this property, so far as relates to your management of it; can you give us any figures showing the total outgoings in respect of the management, repairs, and expenses of the agricultural property, as a whole, under your management; the gross rental is about 30,000*l.*; can you give us any idea of what the outgoings are on that property?—Annually?

3283. Annually?—That would come into my annual account.

3284. Perhaps you have it; I do not think we have it distinguished on the papers that we have?—I am afraid I could not go back to that; I could put that in though.

3285. I think it would be desirable to have it; we have no idea at present of the total cost of the management of the agricultural property; in the north of England, I suppose, the depression has not been so great as in the south of England?—I should hardly say that. It would depend upon the county very much.

3286. Practically, you have had no farms in hand?—No; I have had no farms in hand.

3287. You have been able to let all your property, and your reductions, as far as we can judge at present, from the figures you have given us, have not been so great as those in the south of England?—Perhaps not; I dare say not.

3288. They have only amounted, as I understand, to about 6,000*l.* on 30,000*l.*?—I think that is about it; the diminution, I think, has been from 36,000*l.* to about 30,000*l.*

3289. Then with regard to carrying out improvements, you have explained how the additions to farms are carried out, and I suppose that would apply to the erection of new cottages; you do that by tender or estimate from the local builders?—Yes.

3290. And by plans supplied from your own office?—And by plans from my own office.

3291. In fact in your office you would find all the architectural labour that is required?—Yes, everything.

3292. And that would be all included in the amount paid you by fees, as I understand?—That is so.

3293. That is to say the 300*l.* odd as it was last year?—£. 270 I think you will find it was last year.

3294. Those fees would be to some extent estimated on the cost of the new works, I suppose?—That is so.

3295. With regard to carrying out drainage, how would that be done in your office?—In the first instance, I should meet the tenant on the ground and learn what fields he wanted drained. If I approved, a plan would be drawn of the drains, the distances set out, the depth determined on, and when I had obtained the necessary authority for the outlay, a foreman would be appointed by me, and the drainage would be carried out at so much per chain or rod, according to the custom of the particular district.

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[Cont.]

Mr. Hobhouse—continued.

3296. It would be carried out by piece-work?—By piece-work, under the superintendence of the foreman appointed by me.

3297. The foreman, I suppose, would be a local man employed for the job?—Yes.

3298. And he would be paid out of the Crown revenues?—Yes.

Chairman.

3299. That would be charged, I suppose, as part of the cost of that specific work?—Yes.

3300. Therefore it nowhere appears as a payment?—No.

3301. Simply the draining or the building would be charged on the cost of that particular work?—I can show you a specimen; this is a copy of a particular bit of drainage that has been done (*handing in a document*).

Mr. Hobhouse.

3302. I see on one special estate there is a charge for cutting sub-drains, and the main drain; then I see there is a charge for day-work?—The charge for day-work is the particular payment to the foreman, as distinct from the others who do it by piece-work.

3303. The foreman would be paid by the day?—Yes, the foreman is paid by the day.

Mr. Samuelson.

3304. As regards these repairs that you advise the Crown to undertake on behalf of the tenants, do you charge the tenants interest on the amount?—Not as a rule on ordinary repairs; but there have been one or two instances, I think, from time to time.

3305. Do you derive a good income from the Delamere and Chopwell Woods?—No.

3306. Are they profitable at all?—Not at all, I am sorry to say; they are very inferior wood.

3307. What kind of wood are they?—The only profitable part of the Delamere Wood is the sale of the oak thinnings and the bark.

3308. Do they actually cover the cost?—No, I am afraid not, in the aggregate.

3309. There is an annual deficit upon them, is there?—Certainly in Chopwell; in Delamere the cost is met, and a slight return is obtained now.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

3310. Have any purchases of agricultural land been made in your time?—There was one small purchase of agricultural property made in Lancaster; but it was principally made on account of there being minerals underneath, about which there was a dispute for surface damage.

3311. Is that at Aldingham?—That is near Aldingham.

3312. When you told us that you thought these outlying properties would hardly be remunerative for sale, could you give us an instance of any that you had in your mind?—I was thinking of one about five miles from Malton, the Acklam Estate.

3313. That is about 500 acres?—Yes, that is so.

3314. Would there be any others that you had specially in your mind?—No; that was the one I had particularly in my mind.

3315. As far I collect, the chief part of the agricultural land that you have under you is

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

gathered in fairly large quantities?—Yes, been concentrated a good deal.

3316. So that there would not be very much to do even if the policy of selling the outlying estates were taken in hand in your case. The northern estates there really would not be much to do?—No, there would not.

3317. You manage, I think, for the Ecclesiastical Commission too, do not you?—Yes.

3318. Do the estates in any case adjoining the Crown join?—I do not think they absolutely join; there are some very near. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners' estates at Raskelf are the Crown estates at Boroughbridge.

3319. There is not any case in which you have considered exchanges desirable with a view to bringing about this policy?—No; there are none.

3320. In that case of the drainage you were speaking about, do you charge a percentage when you do any large job of drainage?—The only large drainage job I have done since I have been receiver was the large main drain at Swine Island. That was entirely under the superintendence of a civil engineer.

3321. Do you charge in such a case any interest?—No; it was out of my hands altogether and was paid for it.

3322. This was my question; in the case of the draining of a farm, do you charge a percentage to the tenant?—Yes, interest.

3323. I mean interest; what is your rate of charge?—In some cases 5 per cent., but recently we have done it at 4 per cent.

3324. Have you been able to get that rate of interest in the bad times?—In most cases, yes; in some cases.

3325. Have you given considerable reductions in the course of the last few years?—In the course of the last nine years we have given considerable reductions.

3326. And are they all permanent, as a rule?—All permanent for a fixed term.

3327. You make your reductions permanent as soon as you reasonably can, I suppose?—Yes, long time they were not permanent, because it was hoped that the good times would revive as soon as ever that hope was at an end and make them permanent for a term.

3328. In those estates that are mentioned in the report, have you got any villages belonging to the Crown or large portions of villages belonging to the Crown?—The whole of the village of Sunk Island belongs to the Crown, and the whole of the village of Sunk Island belong to the Crown.

3329. In which county is Swine?—In Lincolnshire, near Hull.

3330. It is not down under that name in the report?—Yes; Benningholme, Meux, and Swine are the villages. I will see join.

3331. Then is Benningholme the right name for the village?—No; Swine.

3332. That belongs to the Crown?—The whole of it belongs to the Crown.

3333. Are there a considerable number of cottages in it?—There are a considerable number of cottages in it.

3334. Are those let to farmers?—Some of

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Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

are let to farmers, and some of them are let independently.

3335. Are there cottages on the farms as well?—There are cottages on the farms as well.

3336. How many cottages would there be together, do you suppose, roughly, on that estate; would there be 30 or 40?—Fifty, I should think, would be near the mark.

3337. How many of those would you have in and yourself receiving the rents direct?—Roughly speaking I should think about 20. I have got the actual number here somewhere. About 20 would be the number.

3338. That would include, I suppose, a certain number of small shops, or artisans' small houses?—Yes; blacksmiths' shops, and others.

3339. On what terms do you let to them?—On the same terms that the cottages have been always let on ever since I have been Receiver; about 4*l.* a year, but varying.

3340. What is the length of the term?—They are all let by the week, I think. The tenants are weekly tenants.

3341. Are the farmers' cottages also let by the week?—The farmers' cottages are let to farmers themselves.

3342. But do the farmers let their cottages by the week?—I should say so.

3343. In that district they do not engage the labourers, then, by the six months, or by the year?—In many cases they do. Then there are many labourers in the house.

3344. In the farmhouse?—In the farmhouse.

3345. But would the cottages which the farmers let be let by periods of six months, or a year?—I should think it would vary.

3346. Supposing in a village like that, any small tradesman or artisan were to apply for a longer term, or even were to express a desire to purchase his house if it were possible, what reply would you give?—The opportunity has never occurred at present. I have never received any of the kind.

3347. Do you think, then, that they imagine that such a thing would be out of the question at all?—No, I do not think so at all.

3348. But you must be aware of many villages where small shopkeepers and people of that kind do for various reasons get leases, or sometimes even purchase their own cottages?—Certainly; but I say the question has never arisen; they have always seemed contented so far, and have never asked or inquired whether the property is for sale.

3349. You can hardly indicate, then, what would be the nature of the reply if such an application were made?—I am afraid I could not. I should certainly give it every consideration. It would rather depend upon the situation of the cottage, having regard to particular farms.

3350. What I mean rather is this: If the Crown owns a whole district, including a whole village, you would not think that in itself it was an impossible request to grant; that is to say, that certain dwellings should possibly become the property of the person applying to purchase?—I think not.

3351. Then in the case of Sunk Island, have you a village or something of the same kind?—Sunk Island is a very peculiar village; you can hardly call it a village. Sunk Island has grown since the reign of Queen Elizabeth from 14 acres to 7,000 acres, by the accretions of the River Humber. It is warp land.

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

3352. Then have cottages and farms been gradually built upon it?—Cottages and farms have been built gradually upon it. You can hardly call it a village at all.

3353. Will there be very few cottages except those that are built for the farms?—Very few; I may say none; nothing at Sunk Island. It was Swine I was speaking of.

3354. Quite so; we were speaking of Swine before. Is there other what you may call a village on the estate besides?—No, I think not; I am sure not.

3355. As to allotments, have you any applications for them, or have you had any?—I have had one application in Benningholme for allotments, but the lessee could not agree to give the particular field that was wanted to be given up.

3356. That was the farmer?—That was the farmer; the lessee of the land from where the application came.

3357. And you had no power, then, really to comply with the request?—The lessee offered another piece of land, but he thought it to be rather hard on him to have this particular field given up; and, of course, I could exercise no pressure, because he was lessee.

3358. Was he not holding on an annual taking?—No, on a lease.

3359. What would he have?—A twenty-one years' lease. He has got the remainder of the 21 years' lease.

3360. You have not many farms left, I suppose, that are let on those conditions?—No, not very many.

3361. In that case you were not really able to grant the allotments at all?—No, I had no power there.

3362. There was no other land not under the lessee which you could offer instead?—No; there was no land at all at that particular place where I could grant any allotment.

3363. Was it an arable or a pasture allotment?—This was for an arable allotment.

3364. Then in that case you have not been able to grant it?—No, we have not been able to grant it. The application did not come to me. It came to the lessee in the first instance, and then the applicant applied to the Commissioners of Woods, who referred it again to me, and I endeavoured to settle the matter; but the lessee and the applicant for allotment could not see it in the same light.

3365. Was the applicant a labourer?—The applicant was a "committee," I think.

3366. Of labourers?—Of labourers; I think it was so.

3367. Do you know at all whether they have been able to get allotments from any other owner?—That I cannot say.

3368. Would they have garden land in connection with their cottages there?—In this particular village I should say they probably would, but it is not Crown property.

3369. In the village of Swine have they got gardens?—In the village of Swine they have all

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[Continued]

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

got gardens, I think I may say, to their cottages.

3370. Have they got allotments, too?—I think not; no.

3371. In your general experience you do not find quite so much demand for allotments in the north, I suppose, as there is in the Midlands and elsewhere?—No, I think not.

3372. I see Holy Island is down here as part of your property; but you do not receive rent for any part of it?—No.

3373. There are one or two little houses on it?—Yes, there are. It is only the Abbey of Lindisfarne.

3374. Not the Island; only the Abbey?—It is only the Abbey of Lindisfarne that is Crown property, I think.

3375. Has any application ever passed through you or been brought before you for a chapel, or any school not in connection with the Church?—There is a chapel at Sunk Island.

3376. Is that built on Crown property?—Yes; the whole of Sunk Island is or was Crown property.

3377. Was the land, the site for that chapel, sold out and out?—I am afraid I cannot tell you. It was long before my time.

3378. You do not know whether the chapel is on lease?—No; it is certainly not on lease. I should think it was very probably given by the Crown; but I cannot say.

3379. You have not known of any applications made to you for land for a chapel?—No, not to me.

3380. What is the denomination of that particular chapel, do you know?—I do not.

3381. As to the tenants paying tithe, they do not pay the tithes in any case, do they?—Some part of the Crown property is tithe free. Sunk Island is, for instance. In other cases the tenants pay the tithe.

3382. In all the other cases the tenants do?—In all cases where there are tithes the tenants pay.

3383. You never let a farm with the arrangement that the Crown shall pay the tithe?—So far I have not done so.

3384. I rather think, if I understand rightly, that it is not supposed that the Crown has the power to grant in that way; is that the way you look at it?—That would be a legal question.

3385. I mean, have you ever considered the question?—No; the question has never arisen with me.

3386. Do you consider it desirable in these days, when you are letting, for the landlord to pay the tithe?—I think it would be very desirable for the landlord to pay the tithe; but you see I have had so few relettings that the question has never arisen.

3387. Still, as a manager of land, you think it desirable, on the whole, that the landlord should pay the tithe?—The landlord should pay the tithe when he can, certainly.

Mr. Isaacs.

3388. Are the Committee to understand that the advice you have given to the Commissioners to sell their outlying properties is based, first, upon the reduction in value of these properties, and, secondly, the cost of collection?—No; no question of a sale has arisen. No instance of a

Mr. Isaacs—continued.

sale of property if the Crown has been officially referred to me.

3389. I think the Committee gathered that you are of opinion that it would be desirable to sell that outlying property?—If possible. I can only give my answer generally. The question has not actually arisen.

3390. It has never come before you officially?—It has never come before me officially.

3391. Still, you say to the Committee that in your judgment it would be desirable to sell the outlying properties if it could be done?—Quite so.

3392. May the Committee consider that that advice is given, or that that opinion is entertained, first, on the reduced value of the land, and, secondly, on the cost of collection?—Yes, I think I should give that advice.

3393. You would give those as your reasons?—I think I might add here that there are cases where it would certainly be inexpedient to sell outlying properties where there are minerals under the surface.

3394. Inexpedient?—Inexpedient.

3395. Just let us go away from those particular properties at present; in the case of properties where there are no minerals underlying the surface, but which are outlying, you are of opinion that it would be desirable to sell the outlying properties if it could be done?—Certainly, as opportunity arises.

3396. Then you say there would be very great difficulty in selling; and I think, in answer to a question from the Chairman, you said that there had been no serious effort made to effect a sale?—Quite so.

3397. Do you think it would be desirable to try and effect a sale, either by private treaty or by public auction?—I think at the present moment it would be very undesirable to offer property at auction.

3398. Would there be any harm in trying to effect a sale by private treaty?—No; I think none at all.

3399. Do you think it is within the purview of your duty to report to the Commissioners that effect?—I certainly should, provided the opportunity arose.

3400. You would not like, so to speak, to take the initiative?—Where I saw an opportunity I should certainly report to the Commissioners.

3401. Of course you bear in mind in that matter that it is not absolutely necessary for the Commissioners to re-invest the money that might be obtained from the sale of outlying properties in agricultural land again?—Yes.

3402. They have other investments open to them?—Quite so.

3403. Do not you think, then, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, and taking into account to the present moment there is no sign of a revival of the prosperity which we had in regard to agriculture, that it would be a desirable thing for those at the head of this Department to consider the desirability of getting rid of some of the outlying properties?—I think very likely what I say is, that I do not think the present is a favourable opportunity for doing so.

3404. And even by offering them to the tenants, if you had an idea that they might

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[Continued.]

Mr. Isaacs—continued.

disposed to entertain the offer?—I am afraid that at the present moment all the capital that the tenants can command is used in stocking their farm, and so on, and in carrying on their farming operations; I am afraid the tenants have no money to spare to invest in land.

3405. Nor could they be assisted, you think; do you think they could get outside assistance?—Possibly they might.

3406. I gather from you that on all the property under your collection, that is to say, agricultural property, there is only one farm at present in hand?—No; there is no farm at present in hand. I stated that I had only one farm in hand since my appointment.

3407. Coming now to the question of new buildings and drainage, about which you were asked a few questions some time ago, you say that those works are done by you upon commission?—That is so.

3408. What is the commission in amount?—Five per cent.

3409. The usual commission. You say that it has been customary to execute these works for the tenants, they being charged interest at 4 per cent. upon the outlay?—That is so.

3410. Do they pay your commission?—They pay interest on my commission.

3411. The commission is added to the sum expended on the works, and they pay interest on that as well as upon the cost of the works?—That is so.

3412. Are there many applications on the part of the tenants to have cottages built for their workmen?—The estates that I have looked after were uncommonly well supplied with cottages before I was appointed receiver; and I think I have only built two pairs of cottages since I have been receiver. Those are the only two applications that have been made.

3413. Would you say that those two cottages are about all that could reasonably be expected to be put up for labourers' accommodation on the estates?—I think they were all that were wanted at the time.

3414. As to drainage, I gathered from you in answer to a question that was put to you some little time ago that there was one large drainage matter the works of which you did not supervise; is that so?—I gave my assistance to the civil engineer who carried out the works. It was a very large open drain at Sunk Island, and a clough, and that was carried out entirely under the supervision of Mr. Bohn, a civil engineer of Hull.

3415. In that case did you make any charge for preliminary surveys or reports?—No, I had no charge for that.

3416. No charge whatever?—No.

3417. The sole cost was the cost of engaging this engineer and surveyor?—Yes.

Mr. Jackson.

3418. Speaking about the allotments, did I understand you to say that in the particular case (Benningholme, I think you said it was), the application was from a committee or from the secretary to a committee?—I think it was from the committee, but the application in the first

Mr. Jackson—continued.

instance came to the Commissioner of Woods and Forests.

3419. Did I understand you to say that although the farmer who was the lessee declined to assent to a particular field being given up for the purpose, that he offered another field?—Certainly, several other fields; he offered them the choice of other fields, but the particular field they required he considered one of his best fields, and when I asked him the question he said he thought it was rather hard if he had to give up that one.

3420. So that there was no indisposition to provide land for allotments?—No; none whatever.

3421. With reference to the selling of outlying lands, I think you have told us that you had had some experience with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or some portion of their estate?—Yes.

3422. I do not know whether you can tell us whether their policy at all agrees with the policy which you have pursued in the management of the Woods and Forests property under your care as to the selling of outlying lands?—Some years ago they expressed their willingness to sell on certain terms of instalments. They offered to sell to any of the lessees or tenants.

3423. Was that successful?—There were not a great many sales carried out, I believe.

3424. Is the object on their part in selling the outlying lands to concentrate the property and render more manageable the estates generally?—That is so in part, and partly I think in order to invest in other investments, as agricultural land at that time was in a depressed condition.

3425. I understand that so far as the particular estate under your care is concerned you do not think that there are very many portions of the estate which could be with advantage disposed of even if the opportunity occurred?—No, I think not.

Chairman.

3426. I see in Nottinghamshire you have only 363 acres?—That is so.

3427. And it lets at 289 l. a year?—Yes.

3428. You did not mention that as one of the estates you had in your mind with reference to the difficulty of sale; why should not that be sold?—I had not that in my mind, but I think it would be desirable to sell that if possible, but one of those farms was the only farm that I have had any difficulty with, and that I had in hand for a short time. I think in that particular district it would be very difficult to sell now at almost any price.

3429. Lincolnshire is not under your control, is it?—Lincolnshire is not under my control.

3430. Do you know upon what principle this line was drawn between you and your predecessor, so to speak, and Mr. Clutton?—No, I cannot tell you.

3431. I suppose according to an ordinary division of England, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire would have gone together, and Lancashire and Yorkshire would have gone together?—Yes, that would be so. I am afraid I cannot tell you the reason for that particular division.

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

3432. You told Mr. Isaacs just now that you were paid a commission upon works. Of course, that is including the gross cost of the improvement?—That is so.

3433. Then that commission, if any commission be paid to you, is, of course, in addition to the figure we were talking about, when the examination commenced. Those commissions are not included in the 1,500 £., are they?—Oh, yes; that is for the bills as surveyor that I was talking about.

3434. I just want to make that perfectly clear; that is so, is it?—That is so.

3435. Do you and Mr. Clutton ever have any conferences together as to the general management of the property?—We had very long con-

Chairman—continued.

ference at one time of the agricultural depression as to the best method of meeting it.

3436. That, of course, was a special case. Yes.

3437. But do you endeavour to administer property under your respective cases on identical principles?—I am unable to answer that question. I do not know sufficient of Mr. Clutton's method to answer it accurately.

3438. Therefore, you have your method and he has his method?—Yes, they would be quite distinct.

Mr. Jackson.

3439. But not necessarily different?—Necessarily different.

Sir ROBERT NIGEL FITZHARDINGE KINGSCOTE, K.C.B., again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. Jackson.

3440. We had some evidence at the last meeting, or rather at the meeting before, I think it was, about the system of draining and the supervision of it by the Crown receivers. Can you explain just shortly to the Committee what is done in such cases?—As I made it a point, soon after I became a Crown Commissioner, on two occasions to see drainage operations which were going on, once in Bedfordshire and once in Lincolnshire, so that I might know what the system was, I think I can explain to you that which seemed to be a little bit hazy in Mr. Clutton's evidence, as to the system pursued. Supposing that the tenant requires draining work done, he makes an application to Mr. Clutton personally, and Mr. Clutton, senior (the Crown Receiver), goes down, at least he tells me he always has gone down, he looks at the land himself and satisfies himself as to the manner in which the drainage should be done; he then, if he thinks it necessary, comes to the Commissioner to get sanction for the drainage, and gets an estimate of the cost. The way in which he gets the estimate of the cost is this: He gets Mr. Grantham, the engineer (whom he employs largely) to make the estimate, to go down and take the levels, and in fact to put on a plan exactly the draining that is considered necessary. He then returns again to the Commissioner with that estimate, say 300 £. or 400 £., or whatever it may be; if I (as the Commissioner), give my consent and get the consent of the Treasury, then the work is proceeded with, and it is done in this way: Mr. Clutton or Mr. Grantham, the engineer, appoints a foreman. In the two cases in which I have been down to see a largish work going on (one in Bedfordshire and one in Lincolnshire), I found the same foreman, a very intelligent man; it seemed to me that he had great experience in draining. He receives daily or weekly wages; I think it is 30 s. or 2 £. per week. Then all the work of actually cutting the drains is done by labourers (there is generally a gang of them) who do it by piece-work, so much depth and so much length, according to the nature of the soil; but this foreman is responsible for the work being done properly. He is also responsible for (and I believe almost invariably does),

Mr. Jackson—continued.

the laying of the pipes himself, so that there shall be no doubt as to the proper laying of pipes and the proper cutting of the drains; a venture to think, as far as my knowledge of draining goes (and I have seen some of it during my life), I have never seen better draining upon any estates than I have upon the various Crown estates, both in the south and north of England.

3441. Then the foreman employed is not a working foreman, but practically he discharges the duties that a clerk of the works would do in the case of buildings?—That is so. I know by my own knowledge that if Mr. Clutton had himself gone down several times, he has other competent men on his staff very frequently during the time the work has been carried on.

3442. Do you know anything about the manner in which the buildings are dealt with, new houses and new farm buildings; are the plans prepared by Mr. Clutton?—The plans are prepared by Mr. Clutton.

3443. And the work superintended by him. And the work superintended by him.

3444. Is it done by contract or by tender generally?—It is almost invariably done by tender. As regards tender, that system is always carried out. I think it would be possible, at all events I should insist upon a tender in any place where I thought several tenders could be had; for repairs or for adaptation of old buildings you cannot always obtain tenders, and if you did they would not be very reliable.

3445. You would prefer to have tenders for contracts where you could get effective competition?—Certainly. And I think I may say without exaggeration that in the cases in which large sums of money evidently had been laid out on the Crown estates before I came to them, some since, the work has been very admirably done; and especially, I would say, not on the new buildings good, but the adaptation of the old buildings covering in yards and works which were required by the tenants have been very admirably carried out.

3446. In the event of its being determined to carry out a certain work by contract, and

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Sir R. N. F. KINGSCOTE, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Mr. Jackson—continued.

ulted at all as to which tender should be
ted?—Yes; and for any work in which
pears to be necessary Mr. Clutton applies
e for a clerk of the works to be on the
and to see every stone almost laid. If
work necessitates it, he gets a grant which I
to go to the Treasury for, for a clerk of the
s.
47. Have you anything further you would
to say upon either of those points?—I think

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

48. How is the cost of the foreman in a
age work charged; is it charged to the cost
e work?—It is included in the work, and he
id, as I say, by the day, or rather by the

49. But what you pay to him is charged in
ost of the drainage work?—That is included
e estimate.

50. How would the cost of clerk of the
s be charged, should you think it right to
one?—If I apply to the Treasury to carry
certain work, I state the estimated cost which
des the clerk of the works. The payment of
lark of the works comes in as part of the
of the works, the same as the foreman in the
of the drainage.

51. Have you sanctioned a clerk of the
s in many cases?—Yes; several, since I
been Commissioner.

52. In order to obtain complete supervision?
hen building a new house, or anything of
kind; but not in the case of any adaptation,
e rebuilding of some old barn; but where
is any work which I think requires it, then
is a clerk of the works, a man who can
intend, and who really is a clerk of the
s.

Sir William Harcourt.

53. I asked you a question the other day
t the comparison of the net payments into
Exchequer from the Land Revenues from
ear 1838, as compared with the net receipts
esent. I did not observe the note that until
ear 1852 the accounts included the Royal

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

Parks and Gardens, and the office establishment
now provided for by Vote of Parliament. In
order therefore to make any comparison of value
you ought to know what in those years before
1852 was the cost borne by the Account for
Royal Parks and Gardens, and the Office estab-
lishment, which are not now borne by the
Account before the payment of the net income.
Can you give me the figures which would enable
us to correct that Account?—I hold a paper in
my hand, which I think has been put in, and
which I think will answer you (*handing in the
same*).

3454. It would appear from this Account that
in 1838 and 1839 there was expenditure to the
amount of about 59,000 *l.* a year upon Royal
Parks and Gardens, and the establishment of the
Office of Woods, which was defrayed before the
net income was paid into the Exchequer out of
the receipts?—Yes, that would be so.

3455. In the years 1888 and 1889 those same
items amounted to 120,000 *l.* and 108,000 *l.*, which
were not borne by the estates before the pay-
ment in of the net income?—Yes; that would
be so.

3456. To put it shortly in this way, the result
would have been that if the accounts had been
kept as they are now, you would have had an
additional sum of 59,000 *l.* to pay into the
Exchequer in the year 1838?—Yes; that would
have been so.

Mr. Jackson.

3457. Can you tell us on what principle, or
for what reasons, the agricultural land was divided
into the present receiverships?—I am not
positive, but I think a line was drawn from east
to west, to divide north and south. It is a
straight line through. I believe that is the only
way in which it was done.

Sir William Harcourt.

3458. There is a head of Revenue which has
very largely increased, the small branches of the
hereditary revenue; are those in your depart-
ment?—No, they are not in my department.

3459. They are not administered by the Woods
and Forests?—No.

Mr. GEORGE CULLEY, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

60. ON page 12 of Paper No. 2, there is an
tract showing the sources from which in-
in Wales has been derived in the 10 years
g 31st March 1888?—Yes.

61. On the other side there is the statement
e different heads of the expenditure?—

62. I will take the year 1888. In 1888 the
rn rents, if you look at the column for
nde, Foreshores," and so on, you will see are
17 *s.* 3 *d.*; "Unimprovable Rents,"
10 *s.* 5 *d.*; "Mines and Quarries,"
2 *s.*; half of which is carried to capital
e principle which is adopted with all the
rent?—Yes: half of the net income is
ed to capital.

63. Then there are "Office Charges for
es, Conveyances, Assignments, &c.," paid
103.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

by those who take assignments from the Crown,
1,067 *l.* 19 *s.* 10 *d.*; then there are other items;
there is one item, "Sales of Produce of Crown
Estates," 1 *s.*, and so on; taking that and the
Miscellaneous Receipts bringing up the total
receipts of Crown property in Wales to
14,284 *l.* 13 *s.* 2 *d.*?—Yes; that is so.

3464. And, on the other hand, taking the
expenditure, the total is, 1,933 *l.* 16 *s.* 7 *d.*; I do
not want to trouble you with any detail about
that at present; but that is the statement of the
receipts and payments for the year 1888 out of
Crown property in Wales?—Yes.

3465. Then you were good enough to prepare
a Paper, which is No. 10 in the Appendix, and
that contains particulars of revenue with the
rents received in the years 1887 and 1888; this
is a very interesting Paper, but what I wanted

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Con

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

to get at was this: what the property is from which the Crown derives these rents; that is what I want to ask you a few questions about?—The character of the property.

3466. The nature, the character, and the area of the whole of the properties; kindly take the county of Anglesey, first of all, and follow me: it is impossible to form anything like a correct idea of what the Crown estate is in the county of Anglesey from this Paper; I dare say you are aware that in 1849 a similar table was prepared of all the estate of the Crown property for the Committee which sat in 1849?—Yes; the Committee of 1848 and 1849; and if you will look on the back of the Return you will find the thing epitomised. We received in Farm Rents and Collection Rents from Anglesey, 145 *l.* 8 *s.* 3 *d.*; Surface Rents, 169 *l.* 15 *s.*; there are no Sporting Rents; Profits of Mines, 34 *l.* 2 *s.* 8 *d.* You will see that epitome there.

3467. That is a summary?—Yes, that is a summary.

3468. What I want to get at is, what kind of property the estate consists of from which you get these rents; take the county of Anglesey?—If you take the summary on the back, we can go through the counties.

3469. If you do not mind, we will take the particulars of the county of Anglesey on page 2 of the Return?—Yes.

3470. First of all we get 145 *l.* 8 *s.* 3 *d.*, which is under the head of "Various Fee Farm and Collection Rents"?—Yes; following that line of Fee Farm and Collection Rents, you see what that arises from. The head of the column is "Lessee," and it is put down "Various," as there are various lessees. That was obtained from different persons who were indebted in the shape of Unimprovable Rents.

3471. Now I want to know, first of all, this: The fee-farm rent, I suppose, is a rent which arises from the sea, or some lordship which belongs to the Crown?—It is the rent reserved from the land.

3472. If it is a fee-farm rent I am afraid it is a very much more abstruse business. It is a rent which has existed from time immemorial, and is in respect of freehold lands in the county of Anglesey, from which the Crown claims a small annual fee-farm rent?—As far as I understand, in the ancient grants, a certain payment was reserved which is now called a fee-farm rent.

3473. Are these fee-farm rents derived from freehold estates scattered all over Anglesey?—Oh, yes; all over the county. I do not quite know the number.

3474. Let us stick to Anglesey?—Yes.

3475. They are small rents due from the owners of lands in Anglesey to the Crown?—Yes, whether fee-farm rents or collection rents.

3476. The collection rents are what are called quit rents, I suppose?—Yes; the customary rents of manors. Those are put into one collection and so we call them "Collection rents."

3477. You are not able to give us any information as to the title under which the Crown claims these rents?—No; except that they are rents

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

reserved under ancient grants or customs rents.

3478. Have you any estate roll for each county which shows what the Crown lordship in respect of which these rents are claimed?—We have in each county.

3479. Then in Anglesey, for instance, the rents are described in the estate roll as being due out of particular lands, and being due to the Crown in respect of some seigniorial lordship?—Yes; those particulars are in the rent roll.

3480. That is quite independent of the item which I want to bring you to, and which is next in your particulars; but before I go to these are collected on the spot, I think, are they?

—Yes, they are collected by the collector of the fee-farm rents but the collection rents.

3481. I see; Mr. Wilkin?—They are collected either by the collector (the collection rents) or by the receiver for Wales, Mr. Wilkin.

3482. Now let us go to the surface rents. "Surface Rents, Leases, Lands, Foreshore, &c." so on. First of all, in reference to the foreshore, I think you have explained already that in that arrangement you retain the management and control of certain parts of the Crown right of foreshore?—Of those which had been dealt with previous to the Act of 1866, or which are adjacent to, or adjacent to, Government property.

3483. Those have been ascertained, and in respect of that arrangement you have retained the management of a very large quantity of foreshore in Wales?—Yes, it is a considerable quantity.

3484. Take the foreshore in Anglesey; are considerable amounts?—Yes; in the Straits there are considerable parts. Some parts of the foreshore had been dealt with by the Act of 1866, and therefore remained under charge.

3485. About 140 or 150 acres. Now I want to ask you this: That is a statement of the rents received in respect of leases of foreshore in Anglesey?—That is so.

3486. That does not comprise the whole of your foreshore rights, does it, in Anglesey?—Speaking now of the single county?—It does not; all the rents that we receive from foreshore.

3487. But you have other foreshore rights, have you not?—Only minerals below the foreshore.

3488. Other foreshore rights in respect of which you claim?—You mean that there are some not included.

3489. Which you have not let?—That I do not know to what extent, but no doubt there are some.

3490. These particulars do not give a statement of the whole of the Crown property in Wales, not to that extent; it must be exceedingly limited, because the foreshores not dealt with previous to 1866 were transferred to the management of the Board of Trade, and there can be some instances which were dealt with by the Crown before that, which have not been dealt with since.

3491. You have, of course, also exact

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

lars of the foreshore which you have control over in each county?—Yes; we have particulars of the foreshores that we have control over.

3492. Now we come to the third item; perhaps, in reference to that, I had better take you from Anglesey, where you do not seem to have very large manorial rights, to the county of Carnarvon, in which you have very large rights?—Yes.

3493. Will you take the heading, "Profits of Mines in Carnarvonshire"?—Yes.

3494. Take the first item, say, "Brundrit and Whiteway, quarries of paving stone on Penmaenmaur, 288 acres, 3 roads, 37 poles; 21 years from 10th October 1870." In respect of what estate, or by what title, do you claim the quarry mines of stone and slate in Carnarvonshire; if I am right in my inference from this statement, the Crown must be the owner of a very large area of manor?—A very large mineral area.

3495. We will keep the precious metals out for a moment; I am talking of the mineral rights, the quarries of stone, coal, and other minerals in Carnarvonshire, if there is any coal, which I do not think there is; the Crown can only have, as I take it, the right to these minerals (other than the gold or silver) either as the owner of the freehold (as an ordinary freeholder) or as the owner of some lordship or manor; that is to say, as the lord of the manor?—As the lord of the manor or owner in fee.

3496. As lord of the manor of the inclosed common?—Of inclosures where the minerals have been, as they almost always have been, reserved to the Crown.

3497. Where the Crown, as owner of the manor, has, either by private arrangement or grant or by statute, allowed or been party to an inclosure where private rights over the surface are vested in private owners, but the rights to the minerals are reserved to the Crown?—That is so.

3498. Those are the only ways in which the Crown can exercise rights of ownership over the ordinary minerals?—Yes.

3499. What I want to get at is, in reference to Carnarvonshire; we have only here a statement of these quarries in respect of which the Crown derives a considerable income, as I take it, as lord of the manor?—That is so.

3500. I should like very much (I think it would be very desirable if we could) to have a statement for the whole of Wales, of the property of the manors, and the extent of area of the manors; how many hundred thousand acres are there in respect of which the Crown claims?—Speaking from memory, the Crown is still lord of the manor of 83,000 acres of waste.

3501. I thought it was more than 100,000?—The Crown also has the minerals under 220,000 to 240,000 acres.

Sir William Harcourt.

3502. What is the character of the right by which you have the mines in the larger portion?—On the enclosure of the commons the Crown got an allotment, or usually got an allotment, in the simple, and with that a reservation of 0.103.

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

minerals under the whole of the waste that was enclosed.

3503. Then wherever the waste was enclosed, the Crown always got the minerals?—Yes.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3504. And that is how it comes about that whilst it retains the common as lord of the manor, it retains the common only in 83,000 acres?—83,000 acres of waste land which has never been enclosed.

3505. As waste land?—Yes.

3506. In respect of 220,000 (which would make up the 300,000), though that has been originally common land, it is now enclosed, but the minerals are in the Crown?—That is so.

3507. Now, as I understand it, scattered throughout the whole of Wales (with the exception of Glamorganshire, which only has 16 s. 8 d. of Crown properties), the Crown has these large rights?—Yes.

3508. First of all, it has the minerals under 300,000 acres?—Yes.

3509. Then it has manorial rights over commons amounting to 83,000 acres?—No; the 300,000 acres include the 83,000.

3510. Quite so; that makes the 300,000. Then to come back to Carnarvonshire, perhaps it would be convenient to take the "Various"; again, under the County of Carnarvon, I find that in Carnarvon, you net 120 l. a year for acknowledgments and rents?—£. 176 - s. 7 d.

3511. I am talking of the encroachments. You will find the "Encroachments" at the bottom of the next page?—Yes; "Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings, easements, &c."

3512. You got 190 l. a year as "Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments, and other small holdings, easements, &c."?—Yes.

3513. Am I right in inferring that those rents are received by the Crown as lord of the manor of unenclosed commons?—They are received by the Crown as rents of encroachments which were made upon the wastes of manors.

3514. As lords of the manor of unenclosed common, upon which squatters squatted, built cottages, and enclosed a bit of the common?—Yes. The whole of that sum of 190 l. does not come from those encroachments, "Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings, easements, &c."

3515. I suppose it is mainly "encroachments"?—There will be some foreshores perhaps.

3516. No, I do not think that; the foreshore is in a separate item; you have particulars of all these encroachments, I have no doubt?—They are all on the rentals of each county.

3517. In referring to one of these, "Profits of mines, Brundrit and Whiteway," you mentioned that that was in respect of a very large enclosure in Carnarvonshire of common land, did you not?—No; it is still waste land. It was the sale of a waste, reserving the mineral rights, and the waste of that manor is still unenclosed.

3518. You retain the mineral?—The Crown retained the minerals.

3519. Then, in respect of that, Brundrit and Whiteway have this large area of quarry?—Yes: about

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Conti

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

about 288 acres I think it is. It is a very large quarry.

3520. Then you must have in Carnarvonshire and Flintshire a very large area of mineral property?—Yes; in Carnarvonshire we have a very large area. In the north of the county, in the neighbourhood of these granite quarries, and in the neighbourhood of Carnarvon, we have a very large mineral property.

3521. How is that managed; how is it locally inspected?—We have a local mining agent, resident at Carnarvon, for that particular district.

3522. That is Mr. Bowen?—That is Mr. Bowen.

3523. He visits and inspects all the Crown mines in Wales?—In that district.

3524. And checks all the accounts?—He checks all the accounts and ascertains for us that the royalties are properly paid.

3525. The official Government inspection of these mines would come under the Metalliferous Mines Act?—Yes.

3526. You do not come under the Coal Mines Act?—No; the Metalliferous Mines Act.

3527. Who is the inspector?—There are two metalliferous mining Government inspectors for the country. In the northern district, Dr. Le Neve Foster is the inspector.

3528. He simply inspects as Government inspector to see that the mines are properly worked with reference to safety, and so on?—Yes; to see that disused shafts are properly fenced and so on.

3529. He is not under your control in any way?—In no degree whatever.

3530. He is under the control of a department of the Home Office?—Yes.

3531. I suppose Mr. Bowen would have an opportunity of conferring with him?—I do not know that he would confer with Mr. Bowen necessarily at all. If there was a question of whether a disused shaft ought to be fenced or not he might see Mr. Bowen and discuss it with him, if there was any question of doubt about it.

3532. Mr. Bowen does not, as I understand, in any way deal with the surface, he is simply your mine agent?—He is a land surveyor, and we have employed him in surveys very considerably, from time to time.

3533. I am talking about your manorial surface rights; he looks after those in this capacity?—The manorial surface right is merely the right to the soil.

3534. As to the encroachments upon the common?—The general receiver for Wales, Mr. Wilkin, is in charge of those. Mr. Bowen is the local mining agent, but as he happens also to be a land surveyor, we now and then employ him in valuations, when leases of foreshore, for example, are asked for, or a question of sale arises.

3535. But in letting these great areas of common land, I see you do now derive some income from sporting rights which are let?—We derive as much as we can get. We advertise them for sale, and do all we can to let them.

3536. I find, for instance, that Mr. Darbyshire in Carnarvonshire gets the sporting over 3,250 acres for 1 £?—That is in the parishes of Llandwrog and Llanwnda. Those are the

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

parishes in which are the slate quarries neighbourhood of Carnarvon.

3537. In each county you have somebody is always looking about to see that the rights are turned to the best advantage?—We have a general receiver for Wales whose it is to see to that.

3538. Has the Crown during late years with, by sale or otherwise, any of its rights?—There has been a recent sale of quarry; the only case of the sale of rights that I have known since I have been Commissioner of Woods. That was because of its peculiar position; it was almost worth the Crown, or was becoming almost worth to the Crown, and would be of much value to the adjoining proprietor of mineral land.

3539. Can you tell us where it is?—Bangor.

3540. Who is it sold to?—Nominally lessees; but we understood that it was for persons.

3541. I observe you let the foreshore in many cases to particular private lessees for and so on, J. B. Price, in Anglesey; but it is more in Carnarvon, Brundrit and so on, for instance; take the very first "Foreshore with pier at Penmaenmaur," is let for 21 years at a shipping royalty per ton. Do they get the exclusive possession of that bit of foreshore?—It is let to the connection with their adjoining quarries they get the use of the foreshore subject to of bathing, and rights of landing or embarkation.

3542. Do they get the exclusive right of shipping from it; that is what I want to know?—Yes, they do, from a pier or any other contrivance.

3543. Are there any instances within your knowledge where this letting of the foreshore operated in this way, that, by giving an exclusive right of shipping stone or other produce, lessees have been precluded from reaching the shore; you are not aware of any instance of that sort, are you?—No; I do not know any of that kind.

3544. It has not come to your knowledge that there has been complaint made that by arrangements of leases of this kind, individual lessees have been able to exercise a kind of monopoly of shipment?—There was a case somewhat resembling, I think, the way you put it, in the owner of one quarry had a pier which would not allow the owner of another quarry to use.

3545. Do you think it would be desirable in cases of this kind, in the public interest, when you lease a foreshore to one person, to provide that under certain regulations it should be open to the public; it may operate very differently, otherwise, may it not?—I do not know any case where we have excluded the public from the ordinary use of the foreshore.

3546. I will only ask you a few questions with reference to the gold finding in Wales. Suppose all applications for licenses come to you?—Yes; they come to me.

3547. Can you tell me the number of licenses that have been granted during the last two

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Mr. CULLEY.

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Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

since this revival of the idea that gold is to be worked to advantage in North Wales?—Upwards of 200 "Take notes" were granted. I will get the particulars in a moment.

3548. Those are the take notes which are really licenses to explore?—Yes, licenses to explore. More than 200 take notes were granted at first, varying from 100 to 300 acres in extent, at a uniform proportionate royalty of one-fifteenth, speaking now of licenses granted upon land where the minerals belong to the Crown.

3549. That is your own mineral property?—Yes.

3550. What is the fee paid upon taking the note up?—Altogether the cost of the note was 5*l.* all those northern cases.

3551. Paying that 5*l.*, and obtaining that take note, gave the licensee a right to explore for gold in a certain area for one year?—Yes; for one year.

3552. You say varying from 100 to 300 acres?—Yes; the areas vary. They have been arranged with regard to the lie of the ground.

3553. Were more take notes than one let to the same person?—There have been several take notes granted to the same person.

3554. Any man may come and take any number of take notes, I suppose?—I did what I could to distribute them, but when the gold fever was on there were men coming to me almost every day, at one time, anxious to get as many as they possibly could, and to get as large an area as they possibly could, in the hope that some of those sets might turn out well.

3555. Then, as I understand, they get the right exploring; at the end of the year would they be entitled to take it permanently at that royalty?—They are bound under that take note to do a certain amount of work, and unless they have done so I should consider myself free either to renew or not to renew. What really happened in the case of the gold was this; that I found, whether directly or indirectly, certain individuals were interested in a very large number of these notes. I thought that was not a desirable position at all, and when the case of renewal came, where work had not been done I took the opportunity of reducing the number of take notes in the hands of each individual about one-half.

3556. Can you tell us what amount has been received by way of royalty actually?—The amount you are speaking of.

3557. Yes?—Roughly speaking, about 1,000*l.*, I do not remember the exact figure.

3558. Have you inspected any of the mines yourself?—Yes, the Mount Morgan Mine and the Clogau Mine; those are the only two that were at that time actually working for gold.

3559. Had much plant and machinery been put down?—Yes, there was a good deal at Mount Morgan Mine; and there were the remains of old stamps at Clogau. As Sir Warrington Woodthorpe explained, a certain amount of gold had been got out of the Clogau Mine about 25 to 30 years ago.

3560. Then it was given up?—It was given

3561. You, of course, have nothing to do with it. 0.103.

Mr. Arthur Williams—continued.

the Duchy of Lancaster or that part of the Crown property?—Nothing whatever.

3562. It is under a different department?—It is under a different department.

3563. You are not aware what the area of the Crown property which belongs to the Duchy is in Wales?—No, I am not.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

3564. There is no actual list in this return of yours of that 83,000 acres unenclosed, is there, showing where the 83,000 acres are?—No, there is not.

3565. I take it, that if you added up the list of property over which there are sporting rights you would very nearly arrive at the 83,000 acres, would not you?—I can read to you a summary, which I think would perhaps give you the particulars you want; these were the areas in 1880: in Anglesey about 700; Carnarvon, 8,448; Denbigh, 8,877; Flint, 1,478; Merioneth, about 15,300; Cardigan, 26,400; Carmarthen, 13,000; Radnor, 11,266; Monmouth two acres. That makes about 85,000 acres.

3566. As a matter of fact, you let sporting rights over nearly the whole of that land, for various sums on different accounts, do you not?—Whenever we can. I am afraid that the amount of acreage let for sporting must be smaller than that to a considerable extent. There is a great deal of the land utterly worthless for sporting.

3567. There is no list at all of the 220,000 acres of which you do not take the surface, is there?—No, there is not, in the papers.

3568. It would be a great convenience if we could have a short list of where that mining property in each county is situated; I suppose a very short list could be given us?—I do not know that it could be done very shortly, but it can be done.

3569. Showing the quantity in each county?—Yes.

3570. Have you sold any of those mineral rights?—The only example I know of a sale was the one which I gave in answer to Mr. Williams.

3571. Who was that sold to?—It was sold, nominally, to the lessees; but, as we understood, for a great neighbouring landowner.

3572. Lord Penrhyn?—The truth of the matter is, that there is litigation going on at this particular moment as to that property.

3573. You think it is a case which ought not to be gone into?—As to the ownership, and so on.

3574. This sale that you are speaking of is in the neighbourhood of the Penrhyn Quarry, is it not?—It is some distance from the Bethesda Quarry; but it is actually within sight of Penrhyn Castle.

3575. Then, if I understand it, you have not been receiving any sums in royalty from this mine which has been going on there of late years?—We received small sums at the time we sold it. We sold it very advantageously as compared with the royalty we were getting at the time of the sale.

3576. But there has been a very great deal of mineral development since that sale, I think, on that

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Mr. CULLY.

[Cont.]

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

that estate, has not there?—Oh, no; not on the estate we sold. I think it is extremely doubtful whether it will ever be developed any more than it is.

3577. What was the price you sold it at?—£. 8,000.

3578. And do you know what the royalty was at that time?—It has been running in my mind that it was 200 l. At the end the minimum royalty was reduced to 50 l.

3579. Then the rights you had in that neighbourhood were not nearly as valuable as the other rights you had in the parish you referred to just now, Llandwrog and Llanwnda?—The position was exceedingly peculiar. The water, for example, was removed by pumping out of a terrible hole. The advantage that the neighbouring proprietor had was that he had the minerals on a lower level, and could drain it by the level, which we could not do.

3580. Had you ever any rights in the neighbourhood of Llanberis?—Yes; we have slate quarries close to Llanberis, near to Mr. Assheton Smith's quarry on the opposite side.

3581. Have any mining rights been sold there?—No, not that I know of.

3582. Then in the case of these sporting rights, when a gentleman gives 1 l. a year for 3,250 acres, what do you consider to be his object in that; I mean, does it carry anything else with it than the sporting right?—I cannot see that it would carry anything else with it. It is a very small sum to pay to have the right of marching over a great deal of ground. I do not know any other inducement.

3583. As a matter of fact, do you know whether Mr. Darbyshire, the gentleman in question, is a sportsman?—I do not know whether he is or not.

3584. I suppose there must be some advantage in it, or else people could not offer these trivial sums for lands where there is no game?—He has a quarry in the neighbourhood, and lives in the neighbourhood, I think; and he likes to wander under the guise of Crown gamekeeper over this large area.

3585. To have the right, in fact, to wander over the land?—I think so.

3586. But it does not give him any powers in relation to any of the neighbouring occupants of the land, or anything of that sort?—None whatever.

3587. Are there no encroachments going on, or have there been any going on, within your knowledge, on those lands that you are speaking of?—I remember one case, I think, since I have been a Commissioner of Woods. In that case the encroachment was abated; the fence was removed.

3588. Have you ever sold any land with late encroachments upon it?—We have sold encroachments.

3589. You have sold encroachments?—Yes; we have sold a good many encroachments in Wales.

3590. Would these be cases where the encroachments were comparatively modern?—No. In some cases, no doubt, they were; they are chiefly old encroachments where people had

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

enclosed and built upon the encroachment. sales of encroachments since the year 1850 amounted to 30,216 l.

3591. I observe that in one of the reports of the Woods and Forests about 50 ago, there was a good deal of trouble selling waste land with the encroachment on it?—Yes.

3592. You have had no trouble of that kind. No, I have not personally had any trouble of that kind.

3593. If the sale was made with these cottages upon it, should you give any price to the squatters, we will say?—We sell it at a very much reduced rate upon their fee value. We take a house, for example, at three-and-a-half years' purchase, and the seven. We accept about one-fourth of the value as a freehold.

3594. Have you sold to many of those squatters themselves?—Yes; I think that in almost every case they have been sold to the squatters.

3595. In almost every case?—Every case. I have had to deal with.

3596. Was there an Enclosure Act in force on your property in the neighbourhood of Penrhyn?—In the case we sold, no.

3597. Yes?—No, that is still a waste land.

3598. You have no mineral rights on that land now?—None whatever in that particular spot. We have some mineral rights adjacent to which touch it, but they are not worked.

3599. You have some mineral rights on the part you have sold?—Yes, we have.

3600. Taking some other counties where there are the same large sporting rights, am I right in saying that there are no other rights really worked with the sporting at all?—None whatever. The best sporting ground is in Denbighshire.

3601. But these little sums that are paid for them, I suppose, are really paid with a view to the fact that they ever possessed them being able to walk over the ground?—I know no other reason.

3602. In the case of those Enclosure Acts, as a rule, secures an allotment of land?—Yes, that is so.

3603. Therefore, in the neighbourhood of those mining rights you have almost always got land of your own?—We have unfortunately a little of it in the neighbourhood of our mines have been considerably handicapped by the want of land. Most of the allotments of Crown have been sold. They naturally are very high up on the hill and are not the land that is actually wanted for the working of the mines.

3604. Then have a great many of those allotments been sold which were reserved?—A great many.

3605. Of late years?—No, not since I have been a commissioner.

Sir William Harcourt.

3606. There have been very few encroachments in late years, have there not?—Yes; they have been stopped; 85,535 l. have been obtained for the land in Wales.

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Mr. Arthur Acland.

3607. During how many years?—From 1850 onwards.

3608. Are you still from time to time selling allotments?—The sales of the allotments have ceased; that is to say they have gone.

3609. They have all gone?—Yes, almost. We have one farm, which probably (I do not know the story accurately; it is an oldish story) was an encroachment in Merionethshire of about 101 or 102 acres.

3610. If one were to ask for a return of the allotments, practically the answer would be nil; there are none?—There are none; none of any extent at all events.

3611. Should you be able to give information to the County Councils, if it were wanted. Some of them are moving for maps showing public property in the various counties; should you be able to give them assistance on that matter, so far as the Crown property is concerned, of course, if the proper steps were taken to obtain it?—No doubt we could.

3612. As to the rights which the Crown has in the mines, and as to the various rights which the Crown has?—Yes; we could give such information.

3613. Do you let any land for sheep-walks, and so forth?—We do not. We have not any pasturage upon more than about 500 acres in the whole Principality.

3614. None of these 83,000 acres that have been spoken of is worth anything for purposes of that sort?—We have not the pasturage.

3615. How many of these Crown manors are there unenclosed. Is there any list of them?—There are about 60 manors.

3616. I just wanted to ask you a word about the foreshores; what is the difference between the powers of the Board of Trade and the powers of your Office to deal with those foreshores?—There is no difference whatever. The Act conveyed any authority we had over the foreshores to the Board of Trade. They are simply the same powers that we had.

3617. Have you no further powers then, now?—No further powers than the Board of Trade has.

Sir William Harcourt.

3618. Have you any powers over the foreshores?—Over the foreshores that are now in our charge; those that were reserved under the Act of 1866 we have power to let or to sell.

3619. But what was the principle of reservation?—That they had been dealt with by the Office of Woods, or that they were contiguous to Government property. I suppose the real reason why the whole foreshore was not conveyed was that the money was not forthcoming. The foreshores were purchased from the Crown revenues, and I suppose (I only suppose this, I do not know it) that if there had been sufficient money available the whole of the foreshores would have been transferred to the Board of Trade.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

3620. Could you tell us how much of the foreshore, taking the Menai Straits that we have been speaking of, has been sold out-right?—There has not been any sale since I have been a Commissioner of Woods.

O.103.

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

3621. I mean during your time?—There has been none sold whatever.

3622. There is a good deal leased, of course?—Yes.

3623. Is provision made for safe-guarding right of way, always in these cases?—In the sale?

3624. Yes, or in the lease?—I do not think there is, except that there is a provision in all the leases and sales that they are to do nothing to injure navigation. A lease or sale would not affect a public right.

3625. There is a certain path along the Menai Straits called the Pilotage path; you do not know, do you, whether that has been enclosed or obstructed: you are not aware of any difficulties there?—No, I do not know of any difficulties.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

3626. I want to ask you a question with regard to fee-farm rents; I will take the county of Brecon, as I know it best; it is on page 13 of the Return; they are described as "Various; Fee-farm and Collection Rents"; the total amount is only 76 *l.* 15 *s.* 6 *d.*; a similar remark applies to other counties; can you tell me how many holdings that is collected from?—I can get the number of items, but I cannot tell you at this moment.

3627. Should I be right in supposing that they represent sums of half-a-crown, and small amounts like that?—Very small; smaller than that, down to 6 *d.* and 4 *d.*

3628. That being the case, I suppose the cost of collecting the 6 *d.* and 4 *d.* practically takes the whole of the rent; would it not be better to sell these things?—We sell them whenever we have an opportunity.

3629. That is known, is it?—That is well known.

3630. What price do you charge for them?—Twenty-five years' purchase, with a free conveyance.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

3631. With regard to the foreshore, I see a large number of the transactions as to foreshores are subsequent to the year 1866; so that I suppose there is still a large proportion under your charge?—There is still a very considerable portion of foreshore in Wales under my charge.

3632. Do you consider in making a lease or a sale of a portion of foreshore that you retain any right on the part of the public at all, or is the ground as absolutely parted with as any other piece of land would be?—It is so, subject to non-interference with the navigation.

3633. And is that condition expressed in the deed of sale or in the lease?—No, it is not. If there was a public right over the foreshore, no conveyance on our part could affect that right.

3634. But, in dealing with the foreshores, do you consider that there is any general public right, or that there is not?—I was thinking of right-of-way, and things of that sort.

3635. I should rather like to see one of the leases of foreshore; do you think you could bring one another time?—Yes.

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3636. You

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[Cont.]

Sir William Harcourt.

3636. You said that you sell these fee-farm rents at 25 years' purchase, what would you invest the proceeds in?—They go into our common fund, and are invested at present in ground-rents in London.

3637. I only want to know as an investment transaction what would be the difference of interest as regards selling a fee-farm rent at 25 years' purchase, and buying a ground-rent?—At 26; there is a distinct loss.

Mr. Jackson.

3638. Is there a distinct loss?—Not in the main, because of the difficulty of collection, and the expense of collection and the amount of correspondence carried on.

Sir William Harcourt.

3639. I understand it is an advantage to people to redeem the fee-farm rents, and it is an advantage to you to get rid of small collections. I want to know whether you are able to sell them at a price which you can get an equivalent for in your investment?—No, not at present. In the first place, at present our investments are confined to real estate, and there is a very strong disinclination to allow us to buy land as land, so that practically we are reduced to buying ground-rents in London, and we cannot buy good ground-rents at 25 years' purchase.

Mr. Jackson.

3640. Have you any ground-rents in any part of the country besides London?—Not in any town.

Sir William Harcourt.

3641. When you say there is a great disinclination to allow you to buy land; upon whose part is that disinclination?—Upon the part of any Government that I have lately served under.

3642. That is to say, that if you sold outlying property, there would be a disinclination to allow you to buy land adjoining other property that you have?—We should have to show a very strong case before it would be sanctioned, I think.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

3643. Have you ever been refused leave to do it?—I have had very great difficulty in obtaining permission to buy land. It was only by urging that I did not want it as land, but only for some other purpose connected with Crown property that I obtained leave. There were two cases in which I remember I had very considerable difficulty; at all events I was obliged to explain very fully that it was not for the sake of buying land, but for the sake of improving other property. I have not been desirous of buying land in my own particular charge at all.

Sir William Harcourt.

3644. For instance, you hold certain scattered lands, do not you, in the north of Scotland?—Yes, as far north as Caithness.

3645. How much do you hold in Caithness?—Three largish farms; one moor farm about 6,000 acres; one-half-tillage and half-pasture farm of

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

about 1,000 acres, and another about 700. Those are the three farms in Caithness.

3646. In your opinion would it be an advantageous thing to get rid of those, and to have the money elsewhere?—If we could get them at a fair price. I would like to make a statement on behalf of the Office; that my predecessor, the late Mr. Howard, did actually sell a large farm in Caithness almost touching other farms, and sold it at 34½ years' purchase the net rent.

3647. And is that the whole property that the Crown holds in Caithness?—The three that I have named are the whole of the property except what are called the Scrabster Braes, some cottages on a very steep bank of the river. That is all we hold in Caithness, except the foreshore fisheries.

3648. Have you any means of knowing what the selling price of such property would be at the present time?—I know that in the close neighbourhood there is an immense lot of land that would be sold to-morrow if any reasonable price were made for it. Land is a perfect drug in the market in that particular neighbourhood.

Mr. Jackson.

3649. Do you know what they are asking for it?—No, I do not know what they are asking for it; but I know that there are three or four estates that are in such a condition that the land would certainly be sold if it could be sold. In fact, I have been asked on the part of the Government if we would not buy them. I may say that Moorland Farm Mr. Howard had very nearly bought from the late Duke of Portland. At that time the Duke of Portland had a moor that adjoined it, he has sold that, or the late Duke of Portland has sold it, I think; and that chance will not occur again. I dare say that Moorland Farm would be sold if we could sell most easily, and get the best price for, because of the value of the shooting. The shooting is very good. In another instance Scotland Mr. Howard had very nearly sold King's Park Farm, at Stirling, to the Corporation of Stirling; but on an appeal from certain Members to the Government of the day the sale was stopped. There has been no disinclination in fact, on the part of the Woods and Forests, to sell any of these outlying properties.

3650. But the evidence has been rather to the effect that there has been no systematic attempt made to dispose of the outlying lands?—So far as 1882 the two mixed farms in Caithness were advertised either to sell or to let, and there was not a single bid made for them in the year; that was as late as 1882. There has been no opportunity to sell agricultural land at anything like a reasonable price since the late Mr. Howard, Sir Nigel Kingscote or I became Commissioners of Woods.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

3651. I was asking you about the forests. When you part with a portion of the forests belonging to the Crown, either by way of sale or by way of lease, do you feel that you are under any duty to consider the interests of the people in the matter, or do you feel that you are

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Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

to get the highest price you can without any reference to that?—I consider that I am free to get the highest price.

3652. You do not feel that you are bound to have any respect?—To local interests?

3653. No; there may be two kinds distinguished; first of all, the right of the public to the or to walk about the shore; the general right?—Yes.

3654. You do not feel bound to consider that?—Nothing that we can do would prejudice the right, if it is a right; what I sell is the Crown right as far as it goes. In the case of a lease, I have already said that we should not grant one which would stop bathing, or would stop boating, landing, or embarking.

3655. Do you put that in the leases?—No; we do not.

3656. Then it might not be attended to?—We should take care, at all events, that the lease would not be renewed if it was not attended

3657. Then there is another kind of right; the foreshore might have a commercial value that would give the lessee a monopoly as against others for sending off his produce; you do not feel that you would have any necessity to regard that question either, do you; that is to say, whether other traders would be prejudiced by the lessees having it?—I know of no sale except an *ex adverso* proprietor. I know of no sale to a trader, say for the sake of a quarry or anything that kind; we should only grant a lease in that case. The sales we have made have generally been to the *ex adverso* landowner.

3658. But leases you have granted to traders, do you not?—We have granted the lease of a certain portion of a foreshore; I was thinking of now of Welsh cases.

3659. We are speaking about Wales?—Yes; Mr. Brundritt, for example.

3660. I think you said there had been one instance of complaint about that?—That was an instance of complaint on the part of one quarry owner; the complaint was that the Crown's quarry lessee would not let him use a certain part.

3661. But you do not consider that that is a question which you are bound to regard, you may regard the highest price that can be got; is it so?—I should not say that that was altogether so. In that particular case the Crown was seriously interested, because the Crown quarry was intercepted by a private quarry. I mean the produce from the Crown quarry was intercepted on its way to the shore; and the result on the part of our lessee was on account of the difficulty he had in getting at the pier that was leased to him.

3662. Have you ever declined any proposal for a lease or a sale on the ground that the right of the public in any form might be prejudiced by?—No, in no case that I know of.

3663. Then I want to ask you about the shooting rents; I see that in a great many instances there are very large tracts of land let at most nominal rents?—Yes, that is so; in Wales we are speaking of?

3664. I am speaking of Wales exclusively; sometimes those rents are as low as 1 l.; did I not?

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

understand you to say that the only object of the lessee was to have the right of walking over the ground with the Crown gamekeeper; do you keep a gamekeeper?—No, we constitute the Crown lessee the Crown gamekeeper; there is probably something now and then to shoot, but there must be very little, and nobody is disposed to give a higher rent for the ground.

3665. I suppose the lessee would have the right to exclude the public from that large tract, would he?—From shooting on it.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3666. And from killing rabbits?—Yes, from killing rabbits.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

3667. You talk of the right of walking over those large tracts; I do not suppose even without his paying 1 l. that you would prevent him doing that, would you?—When I said that, I meant roaming over the ground with a gun. I really cannot measure his motive in taking such a poor shooting as that.

3668. You do not think you could let the shooting to more advantage, say, by giving a license or letting it to gamekeepers, or anything of that sort?—Where one man can get the whole for 1 l., the license would be a very small matter. The thing is almost worthless, that is the truth of the matter. In other cases we advertise the land, and when a lease runs out, even if we relate to the outgoing tenant we do it upon a valuation.

3669. But you generally advertise them?—We generally advertise them.

Mr. Jackson.

3670. I suppose, as a rule, they would be let to persons who had the adjoining shootings, would not they?—We try to do that; in most cases they are so taken.

Sir Henry Fletcher.

3671. I want to ask you one or two questions about the gold and silver operations in Merioneth. Suppose the resident freeholder has an allotment of land from the Crown, can a person or persons obtain a license when he or they please, regardless of the surface owner?—They could do so; but, as a matter of fact, where we have not the baser minerals we always, when we can, deal with the surface owner.

3672. Allotments?—Do you mean where the Crown has mineral rights?

3673. Yes?—No; we claim the right to mine wherever we please.

3674. Without consulting the surface owner?—Without consulting the surface owner.

Mr. Jackson.

3675. Would not he be entitled to any compensation if you injured him?—Certainly.

3676. That is part of the question put to you?—I beg your pardon; certainly he would be entitled to compensation if injured.

Sir Henry Fletcher.

3677. The surface owner gets compensation?—Certainly.

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3678. But

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Cont]

Sir Henry Fletcher—continued.

3678. But the surface owner cannot prevent anybody digging in or opening the ground?—No, certainly not.

3679. Does the license from the Crown enable the licensee to enter and dig on the land of the resident freeholder adjoining?—The license from the Crown on ancient enclosed land, do you mean?

3680. Yes?—No, it does not.

3681. Not freehold land?—Not freehold land.

3682. Supposing a stream runs between two properties, the allotment land and the freehold land, both used by a resident, and that stream being one from which the resident derives all his water supply for every purpose; if that stream is polluted by these people holding licenses, has he any means of obtaining compensation from the Crown?—Not from the Crown.

3683. Has he from anyone else?—He might from the lessee of the Crown; but that would be a question of law which I can hardly answer.

3684. I should imagine, seeing that you give these licenses to people for 3 l. or 5 l., that the resident would not get any compensation from such a man as that, would he; you call in the lessee?—You mean that he may not be worth powder and shot?

3685. Just so?—He might at all events bring the operations of that lessee to a close.

3686. He could, could he?—He could by raising an action against him; if he was not worth powder and shot he would cease to be the lessee.

3687. Do you think the Crown mineral rights could be extinguished and merged in the freehold?—Do you mean that we could sell the mineral right?

3688. Yes?—As a matter of policy I do not think it is very desirable that the Crown should sell its mineral rights. That is one of the most elastic items of income, and I do not think that the feeling in the country is in favour of the Crown parting with mineral rights; at the same time I know that mining is simpler where the surface and the minerals both belong to the same person.

3689. Can the freeholder have the opportunity of purchasing, or, as you say, not of purchasing, but of leasing these minerals himself?—Cer-

Sir Henry Fletcher—continued.

tainly. In the case of the Mines Royalty, we invariably try to come to an agreement with the owner by what Sir Warburton Smyth explained, namely, something like a royalty, giving him the advantage of the half-royalty.

3690. Have you had many such applications?—We have granted several leases to owners of a large area; 13 of them extending over considerable areas.

3691. All in one county?—No; the greater part of them are in Merionethshire and Carmarthen.

3692. With regard to these licenses, and being able to dig wherever they like, and "in respect," have you received many complaints from the residents in the neighbourhood where operations are going on?—No, we have not. Great many residents became very much troubled with what might happen to them, but I think there have been any complaints of damage done. There was a very strong feeling on the part of the owners. That was one of the inducements that we had to deal directly with the owner.

3693. I suppose you grant the license to anybody who asks; you do not take into consideration character, do you, or anything of that kind?—I do not take character into consideration until it comes to a lease, and then I insist on being satisfied as to pecuniary position.

Mr. Arthur Williams.

3694. There is one question I think I ought to ask. The Crown has never stood in the relation of landlord to Lord Penryhn or to Assheton Smith with regard to slate quarries, has it?—No. We have with regard to surface rights, but not with regard to slate quarries.

3695. And the Crown has never done anything in the way of planting, has it?—The Crown has no opportunity of planting. We have no acre of ground in Wales suitable for planting.

3696. The lord of the manor has a right to plant the waste, but it is very rarely done. Have you ever attempted it at all events?—We have never attempted it. I do not know whether we could have the right.

Friday, 19th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. W. G. C. Bentinck.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.
Mr. Charles Hall.

Sir William Harcourt.
Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw-Stewart.

MR. HENRY H. FOWLER, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. BENJAMIN HOBBS, called in ; and Examined.

Chairman.

3697. I BELIEVE you reside at the Chestnuts, Maidenhead?—Yes.

3698. You are a farmer?—Yes.

3699. And you formerly resided at the Leafield Farm, near Witney, in Oxfordshire?—Yes.

3700. Is the Leafield Farm a farm belonging to the Crown?—Yes.

3701. And administered by the Commissioner of Woods and Forests?—Yes.

3702. What estate is the Leafield Farm situated on?—The Whichwood Estate.

3703. How long have you lived upon that estate?—Twenty-two years.

3704. From when to when?—From 1867 to 1889.

3705. In what capacities have you resided on that estate?—The first 12 years of the time I was assistant manager of Potter's Hill Farm, my father being the manager; but his health was such that I had to discharge the duties of his office. The last 10 years of the time I was tenant of Leafield Farm.

3706. When you say you were manager, who was the tenant?—The tenant of the Potter's Hill Farm was Charles Belcher or the trustees of the late Charles Belcher.

3707. Were you for 12 years on the Potter's Hill Farm?—I was 12 years on the Potter's Hill Farm.

3708. And your father was manager?—Manager for Belcher's trustees.

3709. Belcher's trustees were the tenants?—Belcher's trustees were the tenants.

3710. Then the Commissioners had nothing to do with anyone except the trustees?—Not in the case of Potter's Hill.

3711. That is the first twelve years; then after that what were you?—I was sub-tenant of Leafield Farm, which adjoins Potter's Hill.

3712. You have never been tenant direct, then, under the Commissioners?—No.

3713. Were you sub-lessee or simply a yearly tenant?—A sub-lessee. I have the lease here which was granted for the remainder of the lessee's unexpired term.

Q.103,

Chairman—continued.

3714. That was the Leafield Farm?—The Leafield Farm.

3715. What is the extent of that farm?—About 136 acres.

3716. Who was the lessee under the Commissioners of Woods and Forests?—The lease was originally granted in 1862 to Isaac Thomas. In 1871, it was transferred to Samuel Horsfall Edelsten, and he granted me a sub-lease with the full consent of the Commissioners in 1878.

3717. Then in 1878 you became the sub-lessee of Mr. Edelsten for the unexpired period of 10 years?—Yes.

3718. What rent did you pay?—£.228 16 s. 6 d., and tithe.

3719. How much tithe did you pay?—About 16 l. per annum.

3720. Do you know what the rent was that Edelsten paid?—Exactly the same as I paid myself.

3721. Then practically you stepped into his shoes, the only difference being that you were his sub-tenant, and not his assignee?—That was all.

3722. Who did you pay your rent to?—I paid my rent to Edelsten.

3723. Was there anything special in the conditions of your tenancy to which you wish to call attention; or rather I may put it first were your terms of tenancy under him the same as his terms of tenancy under the Crown?—Exactly, in every respect. I was bound by every covenant of his lease.

3724. Was there any reduction made in your rent?—Yes; reductions were made in the rent from 1879 downwards.

3725. What was the rent reduced to eventually?—The last four years the rent was 115 l., which was about half the lease rent.

3726. The rent was reduced from 228 l. to 115 l.?—Yes.

3727. That was a reduction of 50 per cent.?—Yes.

3728. Then the Commissioners reduced the rent to Mr. Edelsten, and Mr. Edelsten reduced the rent to you?—Quite so. In fact the allowances from the Commissioners were always made

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

by them on condition that they were passed on to myself.

3729. In 1888, when the lease expired, what happened?—The Commissioners sought to recover the rent up to October 1888 in the July previous.

3730. When did the lease expire?—The lease expired on the 10th October.

3731. Have you got the lease here?—Yes (*handing in the same*).

3732. When was the rent payable?—The last quarter's rent was payable on the 5th July.

3733. The last quarter's rent of the term was payable on the 5th July preceding the expiration of the term?—Yes.

3734. Now, will you state what you want to tell us about it?—Mr. Edelsten informed me he had received a demand for this rent, and wished me to pay it. I declined to pay the rent in advance, and on the 1st October, without ever having received any demand from the Crown myself, a number of bailiffs came to the farm prepared to put in an execution for 115*l.* rent, if it was not paid forthwith.

3735. Were you, under your lease with Mr. Edelsten, bound to pay him his rent in the same manner as he was bound to pay to the Crown?—I imagine I was. There was no specific provision to that effect in my lease; but, inasmuch as I was bound by all the covenants of that lease, I suppose I was bound to pay in the same manner.

3736. Then Mr. Edelsten was clearly bound under his lease to pay in July the rent which fell due in October?—Yes.

3737. And, if he did not pay it, the Commissioners were entitled to distrain?—Yes.

3738. And, of course, whether you were bound by the covenant or not, they were entitled to distrain on whatever property there was upon the farm?—Yes; I suppose that is law.

3739. Certainly; on the 1st October they did distrain?—They did distrain; not Edelsten, but the Crown.

3740. I understand that; not Edelsten, but the Crown; the application was made to you, I suppose, to pay the rent?—Not for the Crown.

3741. From Edelsten?—From Edelsten.

3742. And you declined to pay it?—I declined.

3743. Now go on and tell us what your grievance is?—I resisted payment, in the first place, because the money was due to the Crown for Mr. Edelsten; and, in the second place, because the 50*l.* gratuity which has been given in previous years off the 115*l.*, the year's rent, was not allowed.

3744. Do I understand you to say that the Commissioners not only reduced the rent from 228*l.* to 115*l.*, but that they also made a further reduction by a gratuity of 50*l.*, bringing it down to 65*l.*?—Yes.

3745. For three years?—For four years. They proposed to withhold that in the case of the last year. And in the next place I resisted payment because the demand was more than covered by the value of the hay, straw, roots, &c., which the owner was liable to pay for; the incoming tenant having declined to do so.

3746. Had you made any application to the Commissioners with reference to the value of the

Chairman—continued.

off-going tenants' share which they would receive that the rent might be deducted from that. No; because the valuation had not been made. I had approached the Receiver with the view of having a valuation made, and he declined to enter into it with me.

3747. The Receiver required that the rent should be paid irrespective of what claim might have as regards the foregoing tenants' share. Yes, or the owner.

3748. It was only one quarter's rent, was it?—There were three quarters in arrear, besides the quarter from July to October.

3749. You were a year's rent in arrear?—Yes. The 115*l.* represented a year's rent to the 1st October.

3750. Well, go on and tell us what else you can complain of?—The bailiff replied by producing the Receiver's authority to obtain 115*l.*, or to distrain in the distraint forthwith. I tendered the money then to avoid the distraint less 3*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* per quarter; that being 7*d.* in the pound on 115*l.* rent. This he refused to allow, so I paid the 115*l.* He wanted me to pay his expenses, but I told him he had better go to those who set him to work.

3751. What next?—At that time, the harvest being very late, the whole of the year's produce was on the farm, and amounted to some 400*l.* value. The acts of husbandry, &c., which were recoverable from the owner were afterwards assessed at 119*l.*, and paid for by the Crown. The whole of my stock was on the farm, and subsequently realised some 800*l.*; so that there was all that property there. Besides that, Edelsten is a man of independent means. He has been a tenant of the Crown for 17 years and paid them the rent readily, though he has lost thousands there; and he undertook to charge all claims for rent by November.

3752. I do not quite understand this. You had property on the farm which you valued at 1,319*l.*?—Yes.

3753. And you received that 1,319*l.* in October?—Subsequently.

3734. What was your hardship, then, in having to pay the 115*l.* to the Crown?—It was a hardship, simply because the Crown owed me more money at the time.

3755. Your money was due to the Crown, but their money was not due to you?—Well, it was payable under the lease to them.

3756. I take it we cannot go outside the four corners of the lease. That defined the rights of the parties; that is to say, under the four corners of this lease clearly. They had allowed the rent apparently to run in arrear; the only question at all events that could arise between them and them would be with reference to the quarter of the year, which would be about 33*l.* I may misunderstand you; I do not quite understand (I do not know whether the Commissioners does) exactly what is your grievance in this case.—It is simply this: that without any notice whatever or demand being made on me by the Commissioners sent down a gang of bailiffs to my farm where I had lived for 22 years, and put in a distraint for rent, part of which was due, and the whole of which was covered by my counter claim.

3757. I

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Chairman—continued.

3757. I may have misunderstood; but I thought you said just now you had been in correspondence with them, and that they had given you notice that they should distrain, and had applied to you for the rent; and that you had been in correspondence with the Receiver General as to the payment of the rent?—No, I had no correspondence with them on the subject of the rent; the only correspondence I had was on the subject of the tenant-right valuation.

3758. Was there no reference made to their claim for rent in that correspondence?—No; they did not enter into the matter of the rent with me at all.

3759. The Receiver never wrote to you?—No; not on the subject of the rent.

3760. Do you say that you never had any application for the rent?—None whatever.

3761. From anybody?—Mr. Edelsten told me he had had an application for the rent, and wanted me to pay him for him to pass it on to the Crown.

3762. I thought that in the earlier part of your evidence you said that you did not pay your rent to Mr. Edelsten but to the Crown?—No; that is a mistake.

3763. You never attended the audits?—No; there was no audit held on that estate.

3764. What was the next point; did you write to the Commissioners complaining of their conduct of the Receiver?—I reported the whole proceeding to the Commissioner, and he replied that he approved of everything that had been done, but that he had instructed the Receiver to remit the sum of 3*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* income tax; I had already reported the refusal to allow this income tax to the income tax authorities, but I could not induce them to move against the Crown to recover the penalty of 50*l.* that had been incurred.

3765. Did you apply to retain the house?—The harvest being so late I wished to retain the use of the house in accordance with the custom while making off; a good deal of the harvest being still in the field on the 10th October; the new tenant lived close by; he did not give up his own house nor the farm which he held; but I was held to the lease and required to vacate the 10th October.

3766. Well, is there anything else you have to say?—Neither the new tenant, the Crown, nor Mr. Edelsten would pay me, or promise to pay me the valuation, which included fixtures in the house; and I refused to give up possession of the house until payment was made or promised.

3767. Is that the valuation of the acts of husbandry that you are referring to?—Yes.

3768. £. 119?—Yes; which I wished to set against the rent; on the 12th October the new tenant came, with others, and said, he had instructions from the Crown to take forcible possession of the house; I successfully resisted this.

3769. Did you have an eviction?—Very early; there would have been an eviction if I had given way; oh, bless you, Ireland is not fit.

3770. You did not have military and police brought there?—I do not know; I should not have been a bit surprised to find that they had a detachment of Life Guards down there.

3771. You say you did successfully resist?—Yes.

D.103.

Chairman—continued.

3772. Did you stand a siege?—Yes; I locked the doors.

3773. Did they attempt to get in through the doors and the windows?—They rattled the doors and the windows; I told them I would go out when I was paid, and not before, the Crown had had their pound of flesh, and I was determined to be paid by some one before I gave up possession.

3774. What happened next after you had successfully resisted the eviction; you remained in the house, did you?—I remained in the house; but my wife was so upset that for days she could not leave the house, not having been used to that kind of treatment.

3775. How long did you remain in possession of the house?—Up to the 21st December.

3776. Was there any other attempt to turn you out?—Yes. I was continually being written to, and was told that somebody was coming to demand possession, and all sorts of things.

3777. Did you remain in possession until the 21st December?—Yes.

3778. Did you go out voluntarily then?—In December I was served with a writ of eviction from the Crown Solicitor.

3779. You mean a writ of ejectment?—A writ of ejectment, and I had to appear against that on the 21st December. At that time I really did not wish possession of the house any longer, inasmuch as I had harvested the crops, and sent a great many of them off. I appeared at the Royal Courts of Justice. I was advised by the Remembrancer to go to the Crown Office, and that I did. After some conversation there I delivered up the key, the house having been previously cleared.

3780. Did you pay any rent?—There was none due. That had all been paid on the 1st October.

3781. I mean for the using of the house from the 10th October to the 21st December?—No; the Crown owed me 119*l.*, which I could not get, a portion of it being for fixtures in the house.

3782. Then did you send in a claim for the 119*l.*?—Yes.

3783. Now tell us the story of that claim?—The Crown recognised me in the matter of the rent and the income tax, but refused to have the valuation made from me. They wished to have the valuation made from the Crown lessee, Mr. Edelsten. They also wished to separate the valuation of the tenant-right from the assessment of any breaches of covenant that might have arisen under the lease. I refused altogether, inasmuch as Mr. Edelsten had had nothing on the farm for 10 years. Ten years ago everything was valued to me, and everything upon it from that time belonged to me. I refused to have what really was mine treated as though it belonged to him. I therefore said that I must have a valuation made from me to the Crown, to Mr. Edelsten, or to the new tenant; and this valuation must include not only the tenant-right, but also the assessment of the breaches of covenant. The Crown proposed to send one of their surveyors down from Whitehall Place to assess these dilapidations, and to separate that assessment from the matters brought before the valuers, totally in opposition to their own practice in similar cases, and totally, as I thought, contrary.

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

contrary to common sense. Mr. Edelsten refused to consent to having a valuation made from me to him, because he was afraid the Crown would not accept that as binding on them; they might have another valuation made by which he would be a heavy loser. On the other hand I could not allow him to act in my place because he had nothing at stake; he had lost a lot of money there, and as he held me by this lease to whatever he might have agreed to, I should have had no voice whatever in the valuation, and therefore it was necessary for me to make as good a "go out" as I could. He was prepared to consent to anything because he had nothing at stake. Therefore, I insisted upon having the valuation made from myself to some one before this property was passed on. The Crown coolly proposed to come in and assume that everything on my farm belonged to the man who, with the consent of the Crown, had sold it to me 10 years previously. On the 30th October the valuers met.

3784. That is one valuer appointed by the Commissioners, and one valuer appointed by you?—Well, we compromised matters by having a joint valuation; Edelsten and myself, on the one side, and the Crown and the incoming tenant on the other. These valuers met on the 30th October. There was a great deal of delay in making the award, all caused by the other side. The Crown sought to recover dilapidations on buildings which I had put up during my tenancy. We resisted, and carried the matter to appeal; that is to say, to the arbitrator named by the valuers before they entered upon the valuation. This arbitrator did not come to the farm until the 10th January 1889, the delay being entirely caused by the other side. Neither of the valuers appeared, which of course it was quite proper they should not do; but a representative from the Crown came upon the scene, and three months after the expiration of the lease, he urged before this arbitrator claims for dilapidations on the land and buildings which the valuers had not dealt with, and which were heard for the first time that day. Had the arbitrator admitted any of them, the award would of course have been vitiated. An arbitrator does not dare entertain anything that has not been before the valuers who referred the valuation to him.

3785. What was the upshot of the valuation?—The arbitrator reduced the claim for dilapidations, as made by the Crown valuer; but I had to (and I did) pay for the re-erection of a hovel put up by Thomas, the original lessee, which, being unsafe, I pulled down, leaving the material.

3786. What did he give you for your acts of husbandry?—£. 119 was the amount of the award.

3787. Then you got your claim?—That is what the arbitrator settled it at.

3788. What did you claim?—I claimed all I could get. It was, of course, for the valuers to say what I should receive. I claimed a good deal more.

3789. Was that paid to you?—No; that was paid by the Crown to Mr. Edelsten.

3790. Did Mr. Edelsten pay it to you?—Yes.

3791. So that practically you got it?—Oh, yes.

Chairman—continued.

3792. What is the next point after that?—This valuation was paid on the 18th February last. Then I claimed from Mr. Edelsten 50 l. gratuity. He applied to the Crown, and I knew, from what other tenants had told me, they were receiving a corresponding allowance. I knew also that the season of 1888 was the worst that anyone in that neighbourhood had experienced; still the claim was refused. I claimed it also, because directly this farm was advertised for let to the adjoining occupier who applied for it. 3793. At what rent?—That I do not know. That would not come under my notice as a going tenant.

3794. Do you know the rent?—I believe it is let at 15 s. an acre.

3795. Tell me the gross amount?—Well, only hearsay evidence, but 15 s. an acre would of course be somewhere about the rent which had been paying, 115 l.

3796. Then in letting to a new tenant the Crown not make this 50 l. deduction?—That comes under the shape of a gratuity.

3797. You may call it a gratuity, but of course the Commissioners have got to deal with it on a business-like basis?—Quite so.

3798. What you tell us is first that your rent was 228 l. 16 s. 6 d.; that then by a series of reductions it was reduced down to 115 l.?

3799. Then, in certain bad years the Commissioners made you a further allowance of 50 l. Yes.

3800. That is, reducing what was 228 l. to 65 l.?—Yes.

3801. You do not tell us that similar reductions were made through the whole of that neighbourhood?—Oh, they were.

3802. That is something like 75 per cent reduction?—I should think so.

3803. Then you say, when the farm was let at the expiration of your tenancy, it was let practically at 115 l. One of the grievances against the Commissioners you wish to bring before the Committee is, as I understand, that they did not let the Crown property, give you another 50 l. Yes; did not make me the usual allowance; did not treat me as they were treating other tenants.

3804. But at the expiration of your tenancy they re-let the farm without reducing the rent to the extent of that 50 l.?—Yes; that is on the condition in which I left the farm.

3805. I want exactly to see what the grounds of your complaint is. What other point do you urge against the Commissioners?—As a condition to this gratuity, not only did the Crown let the farm readily, but there was no claim for dilapidations on land allowed, although the conditions of the lease are terribly severe, as any one who reads it will see, and a comparatively small amount on the buildings was reduced by the arbitrator.

3806. You say dilapidations. What was the amount the arbitrator allowed to the Commissioners in respect of your dilapidations?—£. 30 12 s.

3807. What was the final closing up of transactions with the Commissioners?—I received a letter from Mr. Edelsten dated July 1889, in which he undertook to allow this 50 l. gratuity to me. He was under the impression that he had received a promise from the Crown to that

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

I had his letter; I have it here. I might say it was just simply spiteful feeling on the part of the Commissioner and the Receiver towards myself that was leading to the withholding of this, and I wrote to Mr. Edelsten, and told him I should sue him for this 50 l. on his letter. I wrote to the Commissioners to the same effect; I also said that I should expose the whole thing, and the money very soon came.

3808. Then the Commissioners did give you the 50 l.?—Yes.

3809. Did they charge you any rent from October to December?—No; I should think not, indeed, having had to stand the siege I had for the past six months.

3810. I am afraid if they had enforced their strict legal rights, you would have had to have paid them for the use of their property from October to December. The upshot of the whole transaction was, that you did get the 50 l. allowed you, and you got paid for your outgoing acts of husbandry 119 l., and you got 400 l. allowed for the produce on the farm. Is not that so?—No.

3811. That produce was sold for 400 l.?—Yes, but not to the Crown.

3812. Then your stock realised 800 l.?—Yes, brought that forward to show that there was all that property on the farm, and that there was no need whatever for the Commissioners to take this step of distraining for rent before it was due.

3813. Is the farm now let?—Yes.

3814. I thought you said the farm was now in hand?—That is the Potter's Hill Farm; that is in hand.

3815. So far, then, as the Leaffield Farm is concerned, all transactions between you and the Commissioners are closed?—Yes.

3816. You have had what you consider yourself entitled to; but your ground of complaint is, that they distrained when there was a sufficient amount of property on the farm to have paid the rent, if they had been content to wait until that property was realised?—Yes; I objected to the principle of paying the rent in advance in these difficult agricultural times.

Mr. Jackson.

3817. To pay the rent for the farm?—To pay the rent for the farm in advance.

Chairman.

3818. Just let me look at your sub-lease, will you. (*The same is handed in*)?—The object of that lease (which is an antiquated one, and one which no man in his senses would sign nowadays, though we were obliged to do such things 50 years ago, when that lease was drawn) was to safeguard the landlord in case a tenant was going to clear off everything from the farm the day before the tenancy expired.

Mr. Jackson.

3819. Was not the last quarter's rent due in advance under the lease?—It was payable under the lease.

3820. Payable in advance?—Yes.

O.103.

Mr. Jackson—continued.

3821. Therefore it was due?—Well, it was payable; I cannot say it was due.

3822. Was it not "due," if it was payable?—I cannot allow that it was.

Chairman.

3823. Do not you know that it is a very frequent covenant in a lease that the last quarter's rent shall be payable in advance?—No; that is the only lease of a farm that ever I saw it upon.

3824. If that provision is not there, what is there to prevent the tenant walking away the day before the lease expires, taking all his property with him, and leaving nothing for the landlord?—The landlord is then in the same position as other creditors.

3825. That involves a change of the law with which we have nothing to do?—I hope we shall soon get one.

3826. At all events, you took the lease and were tenant of this property for 10 years with the full knowledge that one of the stipulations contained in it was that the last quarter's rent, due in October, should be paid in July?—Yes.

3827. And your complaint is that the Commissioners enforced that?—It is.

3828. At the same time, there was three-quarters of a year's rent in arrear?—Yes.

3829. That is, so far as the Leaffield Farm is concerned; you said you wished to say something about the Potter's Hill Farm, which you were manager of?—Assistant manager.

3830. Is that near the Leaffield Farm?—Adjoining.

3831. Is that now let?—No; it is in hand. It was taken in hand in 1887, that is a year before the lease expired; Charles Belcher had died, and his youngest son came of age in 1887; the trusteeship expired, and the trustees wished to be clear of it.

3832. Have you anything to say about that to the Committee?—On that farm there were buildings which had been put up by Belcher or his trustees at a cost of something like 200 l. The Crown valuer refused to allow the trustees anything for them, and actually charged 40 l. dilapidations upon them, because, knowing the lease would expire, we, having put the buildings up entirely for our own convenience, did not repair them. The tenant was bound to repair in a good substantial manner (not merely to keep in tenantable repair), and find materials for it, and if he failed to do this, the Crown could come in and do it and charge the cost to the tenant.

3833. Was that sum paid when Belcher gave up possession?—The co-trustees trusted to the clemency of the Crown, hoping that they would allow them something off the rent, and after a good deal of pressure this claim for dilapidations on their own buildings was, I am told, remitted; but the trustee was required to pay the full agreement rent for the last two years. He did not receive the gratuity which he had been led to expect from previous year's treatment.

3834. Have you anything more to say about that?—The farm is now in the hands of the Crown, and I consider it is very expensively, and

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Chairman—continued.

not at all judiciously worked by the Crown bailiff who is placed in charge. I am of opinion if the Crown would do their duty as landlords, and put proper buildings and fences, and furnish a proper water supply, the farm, which is the best on the estate; and I say that from 22 years' experience; might very easily be let, but the boundary walls are in a state of decay owing to bad material being put in them when they were put up 30 years ago. The water supply was cut off some 16 or 17 years ago, because a new tenant took an adjoining farm, and he wished some draining done on that farm where the Potter's Hill water supply rises. The consequence was the water supply was cut off, and we were saddled with a tax of 80 l. to 100 l. a year to supply ourselves with water. We continually applied for something to be done, but it is only new tenants who get things done, under the Crown, as is the case under other people; old tenants have to go to the wall.

Mr. Jackson.

3835. I understood you to say that you were a sub-tenant of this farm; and your tenancy, as I understand, was taken from Mr. Edelsten?—Yes.

3836. Therefore you had no direct communications with the Crown, or with the Commissioners of Woods, at all?—Except indirectly. They agreed to my tenancy, and they made allowances on the condition that they were passed on to me.

3837. But, as I understand, your legal position was that you were the tenant of Mr. Edelsten?—Yes.

3838. And that, so far as the Crown was concerned, they had to look to Mr. Edelsten for the rent?—Oh, yes; but they came to me and not to him on 1st October last.

3839. Therefore, in the ordinary course, they must apply through Mr. Edelsten and to him for the rent?—Yes.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

3840. Have you given, or are you able to give any figures as to the allowances that you actually know of in your neighbourhood?—No; I cannot give figures, because every tenant is informed when these allowances are made that it is strictly private; so it is only in conversation that the allowances can come out.

3841. Who are the chief landlords round the property?—Lord Churchill, Lord Redesdale; now, Mr. Freeman Mitford.

3842. Has the Duke of Marlborough any down there?—Not very near; not within some three or four miles.

3843. But you are not able to give any cases of reductions from your own knowledge, or from common knowledge, of the same kind?—On the other landlords' estates, do you mean?

3844. Yes?—There is very little land taken recently at more than 15 s. an acre.

3845. Has any land gone out of cultivation altogether, or been placed in the landlord's hands?—Oh, yes; there is a great deal in the landlord's hands.

3846. Can you give any special instances?—There is a farm close by in the landlord's hands,

Mr. Arthur Acland—continued.

containing about 100 acres, adjoining my That farm has been in hand since 1879.

3847. Who is the landlord?—Mr. Yapp.

Mr. Hobhouse.

3848. What was the character of your was it poor chalk land?—About half of it clay, and the other half stone brash.

3849. And most of it arable?—Most arable; about 25 acres of it was pasture.

3850. Then with regard to the other which is now in hand, is that of the character?—Yes; there is only about 25 a pasture there. A larger proportion of (the farm being larger), is under arable vation.

3851. With regard to these buildings you said were put up by Belcher's trustees they put up with the consent of the Commissioners?—I do not know whether the consequence was applied for. Under that lease, if he wishes new buildings put up, the Crown will do it, and charge him 6 per cent. on the outlay. If he wants draining done, they will do it and charge him 5 per cent. Having a long lease we do not care to saddle ourselves with that permanent charge; so we put up rough buildings for our own use.

3852. Then you did not take advantage of the condition in the lease?—Not on the Potter's Farm; but I learnt wisdom from what I saw at the transfer of the Potter's-hill Farm there before; so I determined to fight every ground in my own case.

3853. Then the trustees were aware that they put up these buildings that they might claim to be compensated for them?—Yes, but I suppose they were, but they did not expect to be charged dilapidations upon them.

Mr. Samuelson.

3854. What ground did the revenue authorities give to you when they declined to recover the penalty of 50 l., in regard to the allowance of the property-tax being refused?—They just simply shelved it. I did not receive a cheque from the Receiver for the amount. I did not cash; and they thought I had cashed it and make an end of the matter.

3855. What was the interval between the time when the bailiffs appeared and you refused to pay them and claimed the property-tax to be returned, and the time when you received the cheque; did the one follow the other immediately?—No, I held the cheque for some time to see whether the authorities were going to settle the matter up.

3856. I do not mean how long did you wait for the cheque, but how long was the interval between the time when you claimed the allowance of the property-tax, at the time you paid the rent to avoid distraint, and the time when the Woods and Forests actually sent you the cheque?—Oh, it came by return of post.

3857. How long was the interval?—I received it on the 2nd October to Colonel Kingscott, who gave an account of what had happened on the 1st October, including this claim of income-tax.

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Mr. Samuelson—continued.

replied, saying he approved of everything that had been done; but that he had instructed the Receiver to send me a cheque for the income-tax, which I received by the same post.

3858. That was sent to you at once?—Yes; but the offence had been committed.

Chairman.

3859. I want just to understand this. On the 1st October the bailiff refused to allow you the 3 l. 7 s. 1 d.?—Yes.

3860. On the 2nd October you wrote to Colonel Kingscote?—Yes; informing him that I had reported the refusal to allow the Income Tax to the tax authorities.

3861. By return of post you received a cheque back for the 3 l. 7 s. 1 d.?—Yes.

3862. And you expected the Commissioners to institute legal proceedings to recover the 50 l. penalty on account of that delay of 56 hours?—Certainly. If a man steals a pair of boots—

3863. You must not use the word "steal" in this connection?—If I tender the rent less this amount to the agent of the owner and he refuses to allow it, I think it is as bad. I had but just level law myself.

Mr. Samuelson.

3864. As regards this gratuity of 50 l., which you expected to be allowed you on the last year of your tenancy, your ground of complaint is that you think they refused you that gratuity because

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

you had been troublesome to them?—That is it. There is no other possible explanation.

3865. And that otherwise you would have received this gratuity?—Yes; the harvest of 1888 was the worst harvest on record, even worse than my first harvest in 1879; and the farm is now let in such a condition, I was down there last week, that I find only 10 acres of it is under fallow this year.

3866. Have you reason to believe that the present tenant will receive that gratuity?—Well, I should be inclined to think, from the way they treat new tenants, that he will.

Mr. Jackson.

3867. But you do not know?—Of course I do not know. We do not know until the end of the year whether they are going to grant it. The lump rent is so much, and we are informed, some time after the year has expired, that the Lords of the Treasury have taken the matter into consideration, and have made an order for the allowance of a gratuity, which comes down three or four months after.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

3868. What is the acreage of that farm?—Leafield Farm is 136 acres.

3869. Are you renting a farm in the same neighbourhood now?—No, I have given up farming.

Mr. ARNOLD THOMAS, called in; and Examined.

Mr. Samuelson.

3870. Do you actually reside in the Forest of Dean?—In the neighbourhood.

3871. In the neighbourhood, but outside the Forest?—Yes.

3872. Where do you reside?—At Newnham.

3873. You are a magistrate for the county, are you not?—Yes.

3874. And a member of the County Council?—Yes.

3875. Also you are Chairman of the Forest of Dean School Board?—Yes.

3876. And you appear partly on behalf of them to-day?—Yes.

3877. But you also appear on behalf of the present galees and holders of the minerals in the Forest?—Yes.

3878. You desire on their behalf, I understand, to make a statement in reply to an answer made by Mr. Cullen as to Sir Henry Loch's Bill, which was brought into the House of Commons in 1884?—Yes.

3879. I will refer to Questions 558 and 559, in which Mr. Culley mentioned that Bill. He then said that the colliery owners after agreeing to the Bill, and offering all the support in their power did not move one little finger to help him when the thing came to discussion. Can you give us a very short history of what the objects of that Bill were?—The objects of the Bill were something that the galees themselves had asked for. We asked for an interview with Sir Henry Loch, in order that we might consult with him as to the better means of developing the deep seams, 0.103.

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

and we came to a substantial agreement as to the draft of a Bill. There were some things in it that we did not quite agree with; but generally the advantages of the Bill were that there were provisions for compensation in cases of benefits conferred in the matter of pumping; and, although we did not as galees attach very great importance to that, a longer period of tenure—

3880. Compensation to whom?—To other galees. In the case of the owner of a gale draining another gale by means of his pumps there were provisions in the new Bill for compensation for the benefit conferred thereby, which does not exist at the present time.

Mr. Jackson.

3881. The compensation would be from whom to whom?—The compensation would be from the gale owner who obtained advantage from the pumps put down by another gale-owner. There is a clause to that effect in the Bill.

Mr. Samuelson.

3882. That would have been paid to those who put down pumps?—To those who put down the pumps, by those who had benefit conferred upon them thereby, the difficulty being that the quantity of water is too great for a single gale-owner to cope with.

3883. In what form was the compensation to be levied?—There is the provision in the Bill.

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3884. Was

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Mr. THOMAS.

[Continued]

Mr. Jackson.

3884. Was it by means of a rate to be levied?—It simply says "entitled to compensation;" I think those are the words.

3885. It was not to be a general rate levied upon the district?—No, not necessarily a general rate levied upon it; "shall be entitled to compensation" I think are the only words; the compensation to be ascertained in some way or other. This is the section: "In all cases where any specified gale is drained by the working of any other specified gale, then and in every such case the lessee of the gale so drained shall be liable to pay compensation to the lessee of the gale by means of which such drainage is effected, or other person holding through or under him, and the amount of such compensation, in case the parties fail to agree about the same, shall be such as may be settled by arbitration," and so on.

Mr. Samuelson.

3886. You wish, I think, to explain how it was that you ceased to back up Sir Henry Loch?—I do not think the galees did cease to back up Sir Henry Loch; that is the part of the answer which I complain of. As a matter of fact, I believe, the Office of Woods and Forests abandoned the Bill because of the opposition offered on the part of the free miners. We heard no more about it as galees.

3887. You were perfectly willing to proceed?—We were perfectly willing to proceed because we thought there was a sufficient foundation in the Bill for an agreement which would have been advantageous all round.

3888. Subject to certain alterations?—Subject to certain alterations. We said, "Subject to such alterations as may be found necessary," before we did agree. There was one clause in the Bill which we said at first we could not possibly agree with; that was Clause 47. We asked I should say for the power of amalgamation for the purposes of joint working.

3889. Amalgamation of gales?—Of any gales that may be conveniently amalgamated for joint working; and we said that, in the event of the amalgamation, we thought that the certain rent of all the gales should be recouped from the working of either of them. We also thought that such amalgamation should form one whole gale. We understood, however, that the Office of Woods was not prepared to give up its right to charge a way-leave for passing from one gale to another. That is a point upon which we were not agreed; but we thought that, if the Bill came in, that might be discussed and possibly got over; and I should say that since then the Office of Woods have practically conceded the reasonableness of that which we asked for, because they have, as a matter of fact, combined four large gales, and regarded them as one whole one.

3890. And in this case have they given up their way-leave?—By making one whole gale of it, there ceases to be any way-leave.

3891. What is the suggestion that you wish to offer to the Committee, as to the way in which the Crown under existing circumstances might treat you more favourably, and might make it more easy for you to develop the deep measures that you are dealing with?—I think that if there were powers of amalgamation for the pur-

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

poses of joint working, and if the Crown prepared to concede to persons who acquire a number of gales that which they have practically conceded in forming one gale out of a great deal of the difficulty would be got especially as provisions are made here for compensation in the case of pumping.

Chairman.

3892. You mean to say that you are in favour of consolidation of gales?—I am in favour of consolidation of gales, but not if we are to do with the consolidation of the gales, a charge way-leaves over imaginary boundaries. If the boundaries will be boundaries, then, which do not exist.

Mr. Jackson.

3893. But in the case to which you refer the free miners were consenting parties, were they not?—Oh, yes, I take it they would be.

3894. Could the assent of the free miners obtained to an amalgamation of gales in which they had no interest?—I do not think their assent would be required at all.

3895. I thought you said that Sir Henry Loch abandoned the Bill in consequence of the opposition of the free miners?—The opposition of the free miners was a very sound one. I proposed by the Bill to abolish the free mines and to give the free miners 5,000 £. to amongst them in exchange for their rights, which consist, in fact, of the practical owners four-fifths of the gales.

Mr. Samuelson.

3896. They prepared a petition to Parliament, did they not?—They prepared a petition to Parliament.

3897. And I think they made no objection to the amalgamation of gales for the purpose of working the property?—Oh, no; they insisted upon their rights, and objected to the terms of compensation.

3898. And you do not think the free miners would raise any difficulty about your allowing to amalgamate your gales in which suited yourselves?—I think not. They have never objected to the free miners. They have never found any difficulty in the existence of the free mines.

Mr. Jackson.

3899. But you say the free miners did object before?—They objected to being bought out and practically abolished under the Bill.

Chairman.

3900. Is there any other way of consolidation than that which has been adopted, and Mr. Culley is trying, as he explained, where he has got a large number of free mines to consent that their rights should be dealt with by one man on behalf of the whole; I think they said they consolidated four gales together and then made one colliery. Do you approve or disapprove of what Mr. Culley is now trying to accomplish?—I entirely approve of the method which Mr. Culley has amalgamated them; the case of the owners of four or five other mines agreeing among themselves to an amalga-

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Mr. THOMAS.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

that we ask for is that we should be allowed to amalgamate on the same terms as have been even in the case of the amalgamation of those who are now working on their own.

3901. Have they refused to allow you to amalgamate on those terms?—Oh, no; but they have no power yet, in the case of any other lessees.

3902. I quite understand your point now. That you state to the Committee on that point that it is desirable that further Parliamentary powers should be granted to the Commissioners to enable them to carry out this process, so to speak, by agreement?—Certainly, and I say further, that in my view there is no need to interfere with the free miner's right in going to Parliament for that. The free miner, in my view, has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Samuelson.

3903. Then, in your opinion, and in the opinion of those whom you represent, and as an owner of mineral property in the Forest, and having practical knowledge in the Forest, you do not think that the rights of the free miner need be a bar to working of the deep coal?—No; I have never known them any bar at all. I say the bar consists in the present rules and regulations, which are inapplicable to the deep series of seams; and without an application to Parliament it cannot be done, because there must be amalgamation, and there must be some provision made for the joint pumping.

3904. May I go a step further, and say that, in your opinion and in the opinion of those whom you represent, so far from having been a bar the free miners' rights have enabled you to stand on very favourable terms in the Forest?—I think so. I think there are a great many privileges that we have in working which are due to the free miners' rights. You see under this Bill we could have ceased to be the owners of the gales, and we should become lessees. The 47th clause of this (which we never could have agreed to): subject to the provisions of this Act, the lessees of any two or more specified gales may from time to time enter into agreements for the amalgamation and joint working of such gales on such terms and conditions as may be set forth in such agreement and the gaveler may approve." It put us entirely in the hands of the gaveler, whoever he may be at the time. We are not in that clause, as we have under the Forest Mines Act, the protection of arbitration.

3905. It got rid of the arbitration altogether? Altogether; so that if we did not agree to the terms the gaveler thought proper, the safeguard of arbitration, and the free miner having gone, we should have the alternative of surrendering the property which is now our property or submitting to terms which we did not agree with.

3906. You accepted those terms in order to get the advantage of being able to combine your gales?—No, we never agreed to the 47th clause. We could not possibly agree to it. We stated that.

3907. As a matter of fact, if you do not begin to work your gale within five years, do you forfeit it?—Yes.

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

forfeit, or do you not?—No; that has not happened. At the end of five years the Office of Woods says to us: "If we can see our way to give you another period of five years will you abandon half the accrued certain rents."

3908. And, as a rule, is that what actually occurs?—That is what actually occurs, because the alternative is to abandon the whole of it.

3909. You are in the position that you must either forfeit half or you must forfeit the whole?—Yes.

3910. The custom is to forfeit the half, is it not?—That we have done in the case of myself and others that I am associated with.

3911. And you know other cases in which it is continually happening?—I know other cases.

3912. So that at the end of the five years, in the case of the gales which are not worked, the Crown, so to speak, pockets half the over-paid dead rent and begins all over again?—Yes.

3913. Then do not you think that to that extent it is rather to the advantage of the Crown that the coal should not be worked, but that they should keep on in that way?—Yes. I think it is a very good business indeed to pocket half the certain rents every five years. If you can only get the gales into the hands of people who can pay, and every five years take half of that which has accumulated, that can go on for ever and the corpus remain untouched.

Mr. Jackson.

3914. The man is not bound to go on with the gale, is he?—No; the alternative is to give up all.

Mr. Samuelson.

3915. He can either forfeit half at the end of the five years or forfeit the whole of the gale?—Or forfeit the whole of the gale. It is not to the advantage of the Crown to get the gale forfeited then, because if it is absolutely forfeited at the end of the five years in comes a free miner who gets a grant of it and pays no certain rent at all for two years.

3916. Then it is the interest of the free miner at the end of the five years, whenever you are unable to work your gale, that the gale should be forfeited to the Crown?—Yes, because he can get it granted again.

3917. And sell it again?—Yes.

3918. That is *qua* free miner?—Yes.

3919. But *qua* collier it is rather to his interest that the thing should be worked, and for the prosperity of the neighbourhood?—Yes; and I think the general feeling of the neighbourhood and of the free miners is in favour of some scheme by which it should be opened, because their interest as colliers is very much wider and broader than that of their interest as free miners.

3920. And in the meantime the coal is to a certain extent increasing in value, so that in that way the Crown is not suffering?—I do not think the Crown suffers by the gales not being opened, so long as they are in the hands of people who can pay the certain rents.

3921. You say there are other charges imposed upon you by the Crown besides the royalties?—The wayleaves.

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3922. The

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[Continued]

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

3922. The wayleaves?—Yes; but we have no amalgamation at present. If there was a power of amalgamation we say we ought not to be called upon to pay wayleaves, because the grants of gales are not at all scientific. They were granted because they were applied for in all shapes and sizes, and in the event of an amalgamation (which could only be done under the terms of an Act of Parliament) we think it would be improper to charge the wayleaves, which we have been told by the Office of Woods they are not prepared to abandon.

3923. In what way are the wayleaves fixed?—The wayleave is fixed by the gaveller. There is nothing to prevent the gaveller demanding any amount that I know of, as a wayleave for passing through a barrier.

3924. Have you no appeal to arbitration in that case against a wayleave?—I think the power does not exist to amalgamate now.

3925. As to the rate of the wayleave, have you any appeal?—No.

3926. The gaveller fixes it at what he thinks right?—I do not think there is any mention of it in the Act.

3927. What is the actual amount of the wayleaves; does it vary in different cases or is it uniform?—I am not able to speak of any positively, but I have heard of a penny and twopence a ton; I think that would be about the minimum. In the event of four or five gales being joined together it would be a very heavy tax, 5 *d.* a ton, if it were even a penny, in passing through every barrier.

3928. Do you know any instance on which as much as 5 *d.* a ton is paid?—No, not of my own knowledge. I think in the case of one small gale a penny was paid.

3929. Is each separate wayleave a penny, or what does it amount to?—As a matter of fact I believe only one barrier has been passed through at a time, and it has only been a penny. I say if we are to pay for passing through barriers, as many barriers as we pass through there would be so many pennies to pay.

Mr. Jackson.

3930. But there is no grievance of that kind at present, as I understand?—No, there is no power to deal with the thing. If powers are taken by the Office of Woods for amalgamation, we should like a provision made that would guard us against an arbitrary way leave.

Mr. Samuelson.

3931. Is timber growing ever made an obstacle to the development of your mines. Have you ever found that to be the case?—Well, we have to pay a very heavy price for such trees as we use for tip-room. Sometimes a part in which trees are grown is in the way of the tip-room; then we have to pay a very heavy price for the trees.

3932. The trees which you damage?—Yes; ten times as much as they are worth.

Chairman.

3933. Do you mean ten times as much as they

Chairman—continued.

are worth in the market?—Yes; 10 *s.* to for small oak trees, or 7 *s.* 6 *d.*, according to They are in no sense timber.

Mr. Jackson.

3934. Do you prevent them growing you cut them down?—Yes, we bury the pla which they grow. It is to make the tip that the trees are destroyed.

Mr. Samuelson.

3935. You do not have to pay for tip-roo you?—No; we are entitled to sufficient tip under the Act.

3936. Unless you inclose?—Inclose the on which the tip is?

3937. Yes?—That is never done. If w inclosed space we have to pay rent for it.

3938. What sort of a rent do you pay you pay the actual value of the land or c pay a fancy price?—It is a fancy price. not think I ever calculated how much pe It is generally a few pounds, We do n much; so that there is not much in that.

3939. Do you think that this custom forest, this liability to forfeiture at the e five years if not worked, has been a gre pediment to the development of the trade Forest generally?—No, I think not.

3940. Do not you think it has kept sp tors and investors from investing their mo collieries in the Forest?—That is possibl so far as the purchase of a colliery is con it does not matter much who the ow Somebody is the owner every five years. the liability to forfeiture might prevent a sider from buying.

3941. Generally speaking, you do no that the complicated tenure has stood in t of the development of the coal?—Not gen I should think the five years is the worst certainly the 21 years is no objection, mind.

3942. Do you think it would be a ver advantage if you could get that period ext as Mr. Culley suggested, to 63 years?— do not. I think it is an advantage to arbitration at the end of the 21 years.

3943. For fear of a fall in the price of c Yes; and besides if you go to arbitrati presumably get what is reasonable, and were entitled to a reduction you would p get it; if you were able to pay an incre would not object to it I suppose.

3944. If a man is going to spend a deal in sinking a shaft to get at the dee is it not more advantageous for him s should have a longer time on certain co to recoup himself?—I think not, because cut two ways. He may find when he his coal that the royalty is too high a one. 21 years would be an advantage to him. is my own view.

3945. Generally speaking, at the end years, when a fresh royalty has had to be as has it been raised or lowered?—Some hav raised and some lowered. There has nev

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Mr. THOMAS.

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Mr. Samuelson—continued.

much difficulty about it; it has been generally a matter of agreement. There have been very few arbitrations.

3946. On the whole you think that rule acts very well, and you would be sorry to see the time extended to 63 years?—I do not see the good of it. It has never been the subject of complaint at all.

3947. Is there anything else you would like to say in reference to the collieries in the forest?—I only wish to say this: that unless some further power is taken by the Office of Woods to deal with these deep seams I do not see how they are to be worked at all; and upon the lines I have suggested, it seems to me, without any interference whatever with the free miners' rights, that a Bill might be brought in which would give all that any reasonable man would desire for the purpose of developing these seams. If we had sufficient power of amalgamation to obtain such an area as would justify the outlay, and if we had also the provision which this Bill gives for compensation in the case of benefits conferred by pumping, I do not think that anything else practically is required. I do not care about the extension of the time beyond 21 years, for the reason I have given, that at the end of the 21 years it may be of advantage to the gale owner himself to have his royalties re-adjusted.

3948. Your local experience leads you, does it, to agree with what Mr. Forster Brown said, that if the deep measures were increased in number the water would be inconsiderable?—I have no doubt of it. It is a small area, and the water is a measurable quantity, at least by the ordinary rules that engineers adopt; and the misfortune is that whoever puts down the first set of pumps will probably have more water than he can manage; whereas if the coal could be approached at several points it would not be a very serious matter, because the water would be divided.

3949. Then, as chairmen of the Forest of Dean School Board, you wish to make a statement on behalf of the Board as to the prices which have been charged to you for land for the erection of board schools, do you not?—Yes.

3950. I think you have got with you some figures, have not you, which will show what the prices have been?—Yes.

3951. What is the total number of Board schools in the Forest of Dean?—Ten.

3952. Can you tell me what the number of voluntary schools now is in existence there?—No; I could tell you from the return; but I do not carry it in my mind.

3953. Would it be a very much longer number than 10?—No, I should think not, not within the same area.

3954. Perhaps you will give the Committee some figures as to the prices which have been charged you by the Woods and Forests; and also where you purchased from private individuals, the prices which were charged by those private individuals?—Yes, we paid for the site of the Bilson Board School, 2 l. per perch.

Mr. Jackson.

3955. How many sites did you buy from the Commissioners of Woods. Can you say that 0.103.

Mr. Jackson—continued.

first so as to get it clear?—Six sites: Bilson, Pillowell, Ellwood, Ruardean, Plump, and Steam Mills.

Mr. Samuelson.

3956. How many have you bought from private individuals?—Four.

3957. And you think you can show us by figures that you paid more to the Woods and Forests than to individuals?—For Bilson school we paid the Crown 320 l. an acre.

3958. What was the quantity of land that you bought?—Three-quarters of an acre.

Chairman.

3959. I should like to understand before we go further with this examination whether you allege on behalf of the Board school that they charged you in excess of the market price of the land?—That I am going to show.

3960. It is outside our inquiry whether it is a big price or a little price: the only point is that they acted oppressively in charging you too much?—I will give you the figures in each case.

Mr. Samuelson.

3961. Will you tell us how much cash you paid, and how much land you purchased?—We paid 2 l. a perch for the Bilson site.

Mr. Jackson.

3962. How much is that an acre?—£. 320.

Chairman.

3963. You had better give us the price per acre in each case?—For the Bilson School site we paid 320 l. an acre; and 240 l. an acre for the sites of all the rest. The sites of five schools cost us 240 l. an acre, and the site of one school cost us 320 l. an acre. We also paid to the Crown for the deeds of the five schools 26 l. 5 s.; five guineas each.

Mr. Samuelson.

3964. Are you not supposed to have a free conveyance from the Crown?—No.

3965. What sort of conveyance is it; is it a printed document?—Partly printed. It does not require a stamp, I think. I am not lawyer enough to know much about that.

3966. You paid a considerable price for each conveyance?—Five guineas each.

3967. You have told us what you paid for the sites which you bought from the Crown. Will you tell us now what you paid per acre for sites you bought from private owners?—For a site which we bought for Soudley School we gave 145 l. an acre.

3968. That was bought from a private person?—That was bought from a private person.

Mr. Jackson.

3969. How much was there of it?—One acre 1 rood 31 perches.

Mr. Samuelson.

3970. That is the largest amount you bought in any case, is it not?—That is the largest amount we bought. Three-quarters of an acre is the largest otherwise. For Joy's Green site x 3 140 l.

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Mr. Samuelson—continued.

140*l.* an acre; the price is 17*s.* 6*d.* a perch, against 30*s.* to the Crown.

Mr. Jackson.

3971. How much is there of it. Give us the areas, then we shall be able to work it out for ourselves?—For the Soudley site, 1 acre 1 rood 31 perches; we paid for that 18*s.* 2*d.* a perch, which I work out to be 145*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* an acre. For Joy's Green we bought three-quarters of an acre at 17*s.* 6*d.* a perch, which I make 140*l.* an acre, the Crown having asked us 30*s.* a perch, or 240*l.* an acre for the land adjoining on the other side of the fence. Instead of purchasing, therefore, the Crown site on the one side of the fence at 240*l.* an acre, we went over the hedge and bought of a private person at 140*l.* an acre. This was cultivated land, and the Crown land was waste land. Those are the only two cases in which we bought of private persons which are on all-fours with the Crown lands. In the other two cases we had very considerable buildings which have been utilised since, for school buildings, and therefore are not comparable.

Chairman.

3972. Were the Crown selling similar land in the same parish and under similar circumstances at a less price than that charged you?—No; but their land never is sold except for straightening corners, where people have to straighten their fence, and so on; the price is too high.

3973. You say the price is a prohibitory price?—Quite. I think I ought to say that lately we have applied to the Crown for an extension of the Bilson site since Mr. Culley has been at the Office of Woods. We wanted there 20 perches which we were asked 40*l.* for. That is the same rate that we had paid; but we wrote that it was an outrageous price, compared to the value of land in the neighbourhood, and Mr. Culley reduced it to 25*l.*, or at the rate of 200*l.* an acre. We were asked 40*l.* for it, which is 320*l.* an acre, the same as we had paid for the original quantity; and on our representation the price of the purchase was reduced to 25*l.*, or at the rate of 200*l.* an acre.

Mr. Samuelson.

3974. The highest price you have paid to the Crown per acre has been 320*l.*?—Yes; and the lowest is for the extension of Bilson School, 200*l.* an acre. The highest price we have paid to private individuals for land is 145*l.* an acre.

3975. And what was the lowest?—The lowest is 140*l.*; the other two being complicated with buildings, and not comparable.

3976. Can you go further and show the Committee that land in the neighbourhood generally would not fetch such a high price as the Crown asks for it?—Yes; I can tell you what land has been sold for in the neighbourhood lately.

3977. Can you take any haphazard instance?—Yes. A piece of garden land that is close to the Steam Mills Schools was sold at the end of last year (that is to say, August of last year) containing 53 perches, for 55*l.*, that is 166*l.* an acre.

Mr. Jackson.

3978. What did you pay for yours?—For the lowest, and 320*l.* the highest. We paid for that very site 240*l.* Two cottages, and a dwelling-house and one acre of land near to our well school were sold for 240*l.* (including the houses), and that, which was cultivated land, the houses was sold at the same price as we paid for the bare common. Near to our Elm Schools, 2½ acres, including 60 perches of orchard with house and buildings on it, was sold for 240*l.* an acre, the price we paid to the Crown for the Elm School site being 240*l.* an acre.

Chairman.

3979. Do you attribute any motive to the Commissioners for charging those prices?—No, dear no.

3980. You think it is simply an error of judgment?—I think they are making the most of it.

3981. Do the Commissioners pay rates?—They pay rates just in the same way as people do for the enclosed land but not for the open.

3982. I suppose in every one of those School Board parishes the Commissioners are heavy payers?—No, their rates are very low.

3983. If they impose a burden upon the land they are sharing the burden themselves and the rate?—No. At one time they paid 1*s.* of the whole rate; but afterwards a new valuation was made by Mr. Vincent Griffiths; they were put upon the same terms as the people, and for the woods they pay, I think speaking from recollection, on about 7*s.* 6*d.* an acre whatever woods are usually rated at; but the open land there is no rating, because the common rights upon it.

Mr. Samuelson.

3984. Have the Crown sold you good sites?—Yes; they have let us have the sites where we wanted them.

Mr. Jackson.

3985. And the exact quantity you wanted?—And the exact quantity we wanted.

3986. That is an advantage, is it not?—Yes, but we get exactly the same advantage as private owners.

3987. You were free to go into the market were not you?—We did go into the market wherever we could buy of a private owner and did better.

Mr. Samuelson.

3988. But, generally speaking, the quantity of land in the hands of private owners is so large that you could not buy of private owners?—Yes, it is so. I should say we had not the alternative in all cases of going to a private owner. I understand me there. In the majority of cases with the exception of two, there was no private owner of whom we could buy. We were obliged to take our site from the Crown.

Mr. Jackson.

3989. Do you know whether the Crown made a valuation made before they fix the price of the land?—No, I do not know.

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Mr. THOMAS.

[Continued.]

Mr. Samuelson.

3990. Is it not a fixed price for the Crown land; in West Dean one price, and in East Dean another?—No, it is 240 l. an acre always, so far as I know.

3991. I thought it was greater in one than in the other?—Bilson site is close to the town of Cinderford, and that is the highest. I suppose that is the reason why they charge more money there; but for the other sites which are in the ordinary open space of the forest it is 240 l. in each case.

Chairman.

3992. Did the Commissioners grant sites gratuitously for other voluntary schools in that district?—Long ago, but not lately; at all events, I think not very lately.

3993. Did the School Board apply to them to make grants of land in these cases?—Yes.

3994. Was the reply that they had no legal power to do it?—I can give you the reply.

3995. I should just like to have it very much?—I take this from the correspondence of the School Board. It is before I was chairman; but this is what occurred, and I am taking it from the minutes of the School Board votes. In April 1875 the School Board inquired of the Crown if they would make free grants of land for sites for new schools, and would authorise the School Board to get stone buildings free of charge. On 26th April of the same year Mr. Howard asked whether it was intended to ask the Crown to contribute towards defraying the cost of erecting the proposed new schools, and if so, upon what basis it was intended to ask that the account of Crown contributions should be ascertained and fixed.

Mr. Samuelson.

3996. Mr. Howard was then Commissioner, was he not?—Yes. Then the School Board informed Mr. Howard that as the Crown gave sites for then existing schools as well as contributed towards their erection, and still continued to support them by annual contributions, the School Board would be glad to know if the Crown would assist them in the same way towards providing school accommodation now required; or whether (which the Board would prefer) the Crown would give sites, either gratis, or at a low price, and contribute rateably, with similar property in the district, towards erecting and maintaining the schools. I should say that at that time the Crown gave 1-25th of the rate, and were not rated to the poor. That explains the reference there. Mr. Howard, on 26th May, replied that with regard to the existing schools no general rule was followed by his department; but that the circumstances of each case were considered, regard being had to the interest of the Crown. Either giving sites gratis or contributing rateably with other similar property in the district would be to throw an undue proportion of the burthen upon the Crown property and revenues; and he could not undertake to recommend its adoption, as a general rule. On 3rd June the School Board applied for free grants of land for sites of schools at Bilson, Willowell, and Ellwood; on the 5th Mr. Howard

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

inquired whether the School Board proposed that the value of such sites should be reckoned as part of the Crown's contribution towards the schools in question. The School Board replied that it was not proposed, by any arrangement that might be made with the Crown respecting grants of land for school sites, to exempt the Crown from any obligation to have the Crown's property in the School Board district rated in the same manner and to a like extent as the Crown might thereafter decide on, if such an arrangement was not made. Mr. Howard replied that he could not undertake to contribute first in land and secondly in money if it was expected that the money contribution was to be the same as if the land had not been granted. That is practically the point. The correspondence went on in the same way, and after that the land was purchased.

Chairman.

3997. Will you let me see the document to which you are referring (*the same is handed in*). Here is something which shows my question, which I see Mr. Howard answers. When the School Board say that they consider the price very excessive, Mr. Howard states in his letter of the 10th March 1876, that the "price named is at the usual rate of sale of Crown waste in the respective neighbourhoods, and he did not feel in a position to treat the application under consideration otherwise than according to the usual practice. If the School Board object to the price, Mr. Howard would be happy to have the land specially valued at the expense of the School Board"?—Yes.

3998. The School Board declined to go to the expense of the valuation and stated that their Chairman had bought and sold land adjoining the Bilson site at 30 s. within the last few months, and asked Mr. Howard to consider this rate as the value of the said site and lower his price accordingly?—That is at Bilson.

3999. Then Mr. Howard asks for further particulars, and he says that the information he has received does not agree with that obtained by the Board, and he asks the Board to put themselves in communication with Sir James Campbell. Their reply is that "they place themselves in the hands of Mr. Howard and the Lords of the Treasury, and will abide by their decision, feeling confident that the prices charged will be as moderate as can reasonably be expected"?—Yes.

4000. Mr. Howard replies that "the terms specified in his letter of the 6th March are those alone which he is warranted in asking, and that on receipt of the sum asked for the sites, proper steps will be taken for conveying them to the School Board." The contention apparently of Mr. Howard was that he was charging the same price as that at which they were selling in the locality. He disputes the accuracy of the allegations that the land in the locality was being sold for a less price, and he offers to refer it to valuation, and the School Board decline the valuation?—"At the cost of the School Board," for three-quarters of an acre of land.

x 4

4001. It

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Mr. THOMAS.

[Cont.]

Chairman—continued.

4001. It could not cost very much to value three-quarters of an acre of land?—I was not chairman, or a member of the School Board at the time.

4002. When you are bringing an allegation against a department, we have a right to see what their side of the question is. What I understood you to say was that they were charging an abnormal price for which there was no parallel in their other dealings?—I do not say that.

4003. I am glad you put me right there, for I misunderstood you. There is no complaint against them that they have charged the School Board any more than any one else?—I do not say so.

4004. What is the ground of complaint?—That the price is so much higher than that at which we can buy from private people.

Mr. Heneage.

4005. Mr. Howard disputes that?—Exactly. I have brought you figures to show that I am right.

Chairman.

4006. That is a matter of opinion. There is no ground of complaint on that point except that they get too high a price?—Yes; the School Board think so, and they thought I should come here and give the facts.

4007. Mr. Howard says, "If you ask me to pay School Board rates, then I decline to do anything more than other ratepayers do"?—Yes.

4008. "If you let me off the payment of rates, I may consider the question of making special subscriptions," is not that it?—Yes.

4009. That is what it amounts to?—Yes.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

4010. Can you tell us, has the Crown any land to any voluntary schools, either or Nonconformist, since 1870?—No, I cannot say. I do not know what the date of the School is.

4011. Are there any British schools in your neighbourhood?—No.

4012. Has the Crown granted, to your knowledge, land to the Church schools at any time?—I only know it as a matter of common sense. I have not the slightest doubt of it. I know the details.

4013. There are Church schools built within the limit of your area?—Yes; and I understand (I believe there is no doubt about it) that each of them, had a free grant of land.

4014. A free grant of land from the Crown?—Yes; the last being, as I understand, the Jubilee School at Lane-end.

Mr. Heneage.

4015. This is second-hand evidence?—It has been asked the question.

4016. You have no personal knowledge of it?—No.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

4017. It is perfectly well known, is it not?—Yes; that is all I am able to say.

4018. And are contributions given to voluntary schools from the Crown?—That I have not heard of. It may be the case; but that is all I know about it.

4019. I want to know, is it your contention that the present legal position of the Crown with respect to these matters is not a satisfactory one, and that it should not enter into that.

Mr. SYDNEY ELSOM, called in; and Examined.

Mr. Samuelson.

4020. You live at Yorkley, in the Forest of Dean?—Yes.

4021. Actually in the mining centre?—Yes.

4022. You are a Baptist minister?—Yes.

4023. And also a county councillor?—I am.

4024. You are also a free miner?—I am.

4025. And you appear here on behalf of the free miners?—Yes.

4026. In consequence of a public meeting held by them?—Yes.

4027. And also you appear as trustee for the Deep Amalgamated Gale, which the free miners as a body hold?—I do.

4028. You represent those 174 individuals, do you not?—Yes.

4029. You represent their interest?—Yes.

4030. Are you a free miner yourself?—I am.

4031. Are you qualified in the usual manner?—I qualified by working a year and a day in a mine; and I was born in the Hundred of St. Briavel.

4032. Then you can speak for the free miner as to the great value they attach to their rights?—They set a very high value upon their rights.

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

4033. Do you think that that value is merely sentimental?—I do.

4034. That in the past they have made considerable profits from their rights?—Yes, they have.

4035. And that they believe that they will be able to do so in the future?—Yes, and I can say further that they believe that the exercise of the rights tends to the development of the hidden resources of the forest.

4036. Do you say that they derive no benefit, at present, from their rights?—Yes.

4037. In what way is that?—They derive no direct benefit, or they have in the past, by grants made to them which they have been able to sell to a capitalist or, if the grant has been for a land seam, they have been able to work it themselves to a profit. If they have had to sell to capitalists they have benefited themselves, and also done something towards developing the resources of the district.

4038. That applies to the upper seam?—It not?—That applies to the upper seams.

4039.

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MR. ELSON.

[Continued.]

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

4039. Are those upper seams nearly worked out?—Very nearly. Practical men say they may possibly last 12 or 15 years longer.

4040. But you believe that the free-miners have still got a great interest in those deep seams?—Yes.

4041. As well as their past interest?—Yes.

4042. It was for the benefit of those whom you represent, that Mr. Culley amalgamated several deep gales lately, was it not?—It was.

4043. And the free-miners were very much pleased with his action in the matter were they not?—They were.

4044. A large body of the free-miners applied for a gale?—Yes; about 170 or 180.

4045. And they were induced to forego their separate rights in order, as a corporation, to have the gale granted to them?—Yes.

4046. And they chose you as their trustee to negotiate for them?—They did.

4047. How long is it since that grant was made?—Two years next September.

4048. Have you made any attempt to work the property?—Yes; ever since we have had the grant we have been attempting to do something.

4049. To work it?—No, not that.

4050. But you have tried to dispose of it?—We have.

4051. Have you had negotiations with anybody concerning your property?—Oh, yes.

4052. Do you believe that you are going to bring them to a good issue?—The prospects now are very bright and we are very hopeful.

4053. Then it is not correct, in your experience, to say that capitalists or others who have wished to open up negotiations with you, have been prevented by the fact that you were a body of men instead of one individual owner?—Oh, no; for all correspondence has been carried on by myself.

4054. You have not found anybody who was in favour of the thing, because it belonged to a great number of persons instead of one individual?—No.

4055. Of course you cannot speak as an engineer, or anything of that sort, but do you think the existence of the free-miners' rights has impeded the development of the resources of the forest?—I do not. I quite agree with what a practical man like Mr. Thomas has said, that is, that they do not impede but rather help the development of the trade of the district.

4056. And you do not think that they restrict the output at the present time?—Not in any way.

4057. Mr. Forster Brown handed in a statement showing that the free miner's right is very considerable in the shallow gales, but that in his opinion the free miners' right was practically cramped by the expenses in the deep gale. As free miners do you agree with that?—Among the applicants interested in the United Deep Colliery sale, we have several very practical men; one or two who are managers of some of the largest collieries in the Forest of Dean; and they have taken considerable trouble to estimate what will be the probable cost of putting down a pair of shafts, putting up the engine house, erecting the necessary machinery, putting in sidings; and so on.

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

then upon a given out-put they have come to the conclusion that the profit would be from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. a ton.

4058. So you think that in those particular cases, certainly, the free miners have a large interest?—Certainly.

4059. Have you got any suggestions that you would like to make to the Committee on behalf of the free miners?—No; we are very pleased with the action taken by the Commissioner of Woods and Forests in amalgamating the gales, thinking that was a necessary step towards the development of the lower seams.

4060. You would not have any objection to Mr. Culley, if he had the right to do so, amalgamating other gales which are not the property of the free miners, but which are the property of other holders at present, in order that they might be worked?—It is a question I have not considered. I may point out to the Committee that the free miners are interested in any forfeiture of a gale, and if there was a probability of gales being forfeited, then it would be for their benefit that such forfeiture should take place.

4061. But the forfeitures at present, as Mr. Thomas has shown, do not take place as a rule; but a re-grant is made for another five years as a rule?—I may say that forfeitures preceded the action of the First Commissioner; when he amalgamated the gales, the gales were forfeited; then he amalgamated them together into one, and if either of the deep seams, now held by capitalists and not worked, were forfeited, then it would be for the benefit of the free miner.

4062. But in the existing state of affairs the free miner does not wish to see these gales continually forfeited. What he would wish would be to see them worked, would he not?—Yes.

4063. There is no selfish policy of the other kind on their part?—No.

4064. But they desire what is for the good of the district?—The good of the district is really the good of the free miner.

4065. Their feeling as colliers is stronger than their feeling as free miners in that respect, is it not?—Certainly.

4066. At the same time they would view with dissatisfaction any recommendation by this or any other Committee to get rid of them altogether?—Yes; they believe that the existence of the free miners' rights, as I have intimated before, tends rather to the development of the coal measures of the forest; because experience has shown that the capitalist can get better terms from the working free miner than from a person who is in independent circumstances,

4067. Do you know any case in which valuable tracts of coal have been sold by the miners for a very small sum?—I may say as regards the present grant, which is a very extensive grant, we are not asking anything like its worth. We are most desirous to see the measures developed and we are asking a very small sum indeed.

4068. Your principal idea is to see the measures developed?—Yes; and to get some recognition of our rights.

4069. That is to say, of the commercial value of your rights?—Yes.

4070. There

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Mr. ELSOM.

[Conti

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

4070. There are also common rights in the Forest of Dean, are there not?—Yes.

4071. Are all foresters free miners?—Oh, no.

4072. Are all the foresters commoners; do they all enjoy common rights?—At present all the foresters enjoy common rights.

4073. Do they value them?—They do.

4074. And they use them to a great extent?—Yes

4075. And you think they are of great value to them?—Yes; most decidedly they are.

4076. Are they as ancient as the free miners' rights?—They are very ancient I think; we believe that common rights and free miners' rights are inseparable, and that both go back time out of mind.

4077. Do you think many persons are making use of the common rights who have no right to them at all?—I think there is some difficulty in determining who are really entitled to common rights; at present, and for years and years past, all residents in the district have used them and enjoyed them.

4078. And those who are entitled have no desire to disturb those who are possibly not entitled is that so?—That is so; I may, if the Committee would allow me, point out that the forest is essentially a mining district; the work of the collier is very laborious, and sometimes, in consequence of foul air, very unhealthy; many of the colliers are prematurely old; it may be that at 55 years of age they are unable to follow their usual employment, but they are enabled to keep off the rates and from the workhouse, from the fact that they can keep a few pigs, or a few sheep, or, it may be, a horse or a donkey, and then they find the right to "turn out" very valuable indeed.

4079. Sir James Campbell told us there was a certain amount of dissatisfaction because people in the Forest did not think the Crown contributed largely enough to the rates; do you know of that dissatisfaction?—Yes; I have heard similar expressions.

4080. Sir James Campbell also suggested that possibly the Crown might be rated on the value of the standing timber if the commoners were rated on their common rights; what do you think the commoners would have to say to that?—I think they would object to that. They would no longer regard it as a right.

Chairman.

4081. They would not object, I suppose, to the Crown being rated, would they?—No; but they would object to the common being inclosed.

Mr. Samuelson.

4082. Should you think they would sooner maintain the *status quo* than for both themselves and the Crown to be rated?—Yes; because we think that presently we shall get county rating, and the foresters would have to give up their rights for the benefit of the whole county, and not specially for the Forest of Dean.

Chairman.

4083. Generally may we take your view to be this: that you are satisfied with the *status quo*?—Yes.

4084. You do not want your rights interfered

Chairman—continued.

with; you consider that Mr. Culley's policy of uniting the gales, and of dealing with the free miners through a representative large number (as you have been yourself in 174) a wise policy, and you are anxious should be persevered in?—Yes.

Mr. Samuelson.

4085. And you do not think, so far as I know, that the existence of those common rights does any harm to the Crown property?—I think it is impossible, because the common rights are over land where the trees have got to stand so long as they are maintained in the position that it is impossible for the animals to get out to injure them.

4086. And there is no game in the forest that they do not lose in that respect?—Certainly I have not seen any game. There may be some but it is very scarce, if there is any.

4087. Then you have no other suggestions to make as to the common rights; you are satisfied so long as they are maintained in the present position?—We are satisfied. If the Committee would allow me, I should like to refer to a remark made by a previous witness as to the foresters being "born poachers." It may have been made partly in a jocular vein, but it has caused considerable heartburn in the district. We are no more "born poachers" than "born fools;" and I have been instructed to give the Committee to understand that it is not given to such practices in the Forest of Dean.

4088. You appear also on behalf of the Nonconformists of the Forest of Dean, do you not?—I do.

4089. Can you tell me how many Nonconformists belonging to the Church of England there are in the forest proper?—About half-a-dozen.

4090. Can you give me any idea of the number of Nonconformist places of worship in the Forest of Dean or not?—There are 30 to 40.

4091. There is a very large number of Nonconformists then resident in the Forest of Dean?—A very much larger number than of going people.

4092. Do you know what the number of the population is?—I do not; but I should think probably 70 to 75 per cent. would be Nonconformists.

4093. You think only 25 per cent. belong to the Established Church?—Twenty-five per cent. probably.

4094. What bodies do you represent in the Forest?—It is a body of ministers, or generally?—Yes.

4095. You do not appear for the Baptists?—No. May I mention the different denominations?—Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists, Christians, Baptists, Congregationalists; that exhausts the list; I am not quite sure if we have also one clergyman in our Nonconformist Association.

4096. What view did they wish you to present here to the Committee?—They wish to bring before the Committee the unequal treatment they receive when compared with the treatment accorded to those who attend church.

4097. What unequal treatment is it that you refer to?—In regard to the price charged for sites by Nonconformists for sites.

4098. Have the sites been granted free

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[Continued.]

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

church?—Yes; if I may be permitted I would quote from evidence given by the previous solicitor to the Woods and Forests.

Mr. Jackson.

4099. Had not you better quote from your own experience?—I have not these figures by me, but they are given in 1874 by an official of the Woods and Forests.

Mr. Samuelson.

4100. This is taken from the Blue Book, is it not, the Report of 1874?—Yes.

Chairman.

4101. Just say what it is that you wish to quote?—"The Crown gave five acres for the sites of each church, churchyard, and parsonage, contributed 10,000 *l.* towards the endowment of the churches, and about 5,000 *l.* for other purposes. The Crown also pays 90 *l.* a year for the support of a curate at Lydbrook. Since 1832 the Crown has given about 1,500 *l.* for the erection of schools besides parts of land for sites, and subscribes upwards of 300 *l.* for their maintenance."

4102. Can you give us the reference to what you are quoting from?—It is from the Blue Book.

4103. What date and what Committee?—1874.

4104. The Report of the Committee of 1874, is it?—Yes.

4105. Do you know the page or the number of the question?—I have not paged it, but it is very early.

4106. What is the name of the witness?—Mr. Harris Watson.

Mr. Samuelson.

4107. Was he not solicitor to the Woods and Forests at the time?—Yes.

4108. In what way have you obtained the land on which Nonconformist chapels are built?—At the usually prohibitive price of 240 *l.* an acre in West Dean and 320 *l.* in East Dean.

4109. That has been the price paid for all those sites which you bought from the Crown?—Yes.

4110. Have you in any cases bought land from private individuals, and not from the Woods and Forests?—There are some cases, but I am not sure of them; I cannot speak as to those.

4111. You cannot say you bought on more favourable terms from private individuals?—I cannot say, but judging from experience I should say that it would be so.

4112. With regard to these, have you been allowed to choose your site, or have they been chosen for you?—We have been allowed to select our sites for Nonconformist places of worship.

4113. In all cases have you been allowed to buy the site that you chose?—I believe so.

4114. You are also a member of the School Board, are you not?—Yes.

4115. And the School Board have also chosen their sites. I think we have had that from the other witness?—I do not think that the School Board was allowed to choose their site, in the O.103.

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

case of the school of which I am visitor as a member of the Board.

4116. Which is that?—The school at Pillowell.

4117. Do you know of your own knowledge that they were not allowed to choose their site?—I know from what members of the Board have told me.

4118. Have you any complaint to make as to that?—Yes, they were compelled to put it down on a piece of swampy land that is very unhealthy. Before it could get a foundation to build the school on it, they had to bury almost as much stone as can be seen above the ground.

4119. Did they suggest another site which the Commissioners refused to let them have?—Yes, so I am informed.

4120. How many years ago is that?—That would be about 1876.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

4121. Who informed you of that?—Member of the present Board.

4122. You do not know that of your own knowledge?—I do not.

Chairman.

4123. But you do know that the School Board if they had chosen to give the notice in November could have exercised their compulsory powers, and taken land where they thought proper?—Yes. I know that close to this school there is a piece of land situated upon a hill; there are a few trees there, and if I might give expression to what I have been told, though I cannot vouch for its accuracy (but I believe it), I may say that it had been partly promised to the owners of a colliery near who had said that they intended to build a mission church connected with the Established Church upon that site; and it is generally believed that the School Board were refused the site that they wished in consequence of the partial promise made.

4124. Was that promise carried out. Is a church built upon it?—No, the proprietors of the colliery failed.

4125. Let us quite understand the position; are there any British schools in the Forest of Dean?—Not in the forest proper.

4126. Are there any voluntary elementary schools outside the schools of the Church of England?—No; I cannot remember any.

4127. I suppose there are a great many Sunday schools?—Yes.

4128. And the Sunday schools would be in connection with these?—Yes.

4129. Are they generally separate buildings?—No.

4130. I mean by that, are they held under a chapel, or are they held in an adjoining building close to the chapel?—Generally under the chapel.

4131. Therefore the Commissioners could not have given the land to build the Sunday school without also giving land to build a chapel?—In the majority of instances they could not, but there are some few cases, I now remember, where the schools are not thus placed, but are adjoining the chapels.

4132. I suppose you are aware that the Commissioners

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[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

missioners contend that they have no legal power to give any land except for the purpose of building either churches or schools in connection with the Church of England?—Yes; but before coming here, in looking through some old files of a paper called "The Forester," I found this Treasury Minute dated May 1871; may I be allowed to read it?

4133. Yes, certainly?—"No school ought any longer to be excluded from a Crown grant on the ground that it is not a Church of England school," and "that the time has now arrived when the only preliminary *sine quâ non* to entertaining such applications on their merits should be that the school on behalf of which application is made falls within the definition of a public elementary school."

4134. That is a Treasury Minute, you say, of 1871?—Yes.

4135. And that minute, you say, has never been acted on?—Under that minute a British School then in existence at Coleford received for some years 10*l.* per annum in addition to the Ordinary Parliamentary Grant.

4136. Was that grant discontinued or did the school stop?—The school ceased.

4137. It was transferred, I suppose, to the School Board?—I believe so.

4138. Then, of course, the Treasury could not be expected to contribute to the School Board?—No.

4139. The School Board would be on the rates?—Yes.

Mr. Jackson.

4140. But under that Treasury Minute the contribution was made; therefore the Treasury was acted upon?—We thought, remembering the existence of the minute, that surely more favour would have been shown to the ratepayers when they were compelled, or at least when they adopted the provisions of the Education Act and built their Board schools.

4141. You think that the authorities ought to contribute not only towards the rates which maintain the school, but make a voluntary contribution also?—Well, we thought that the office of Woods and Forests ought to have given the sites at least.

4142. That is not the question; this is a question of contribution?—We should have regarded the site as an equivalent.

4143. We have heard from the chairman of the School Board that you would not?—The general opinion in the Forest of Dean is, that they ought to have given the sites, and then there would have been no dissatisfaction expressed.

Mr. Samuelson.

4144. If they had given you the sites would you have expected them also to have been rated?—Oh, yes.

Chairman.

4145. Then your complaint is not that the Commissioners have shown any unfair preference as between the Church of England and Nonconformity, but that as between the Church of England and Board schools they have given to the one, and that with the other they have con-

Chairman—continued.

ducted their transactions upon a strictly commercial basis?—Yes.

4146. And that they themselves, although vendors, are also rated as the purchasers, that they have themselves to bear part of share of the burden which is thrown upon rates by the purchase and erection of schools?—Yes. I should like to point out in addition to having given the sites for the schools the Crown also contributed 1,500*l.* towards the erection of schools, and upwards of 300*l.* towards their maintenance.

Mr. Jackson.

4147. Is that since the Board Schools erected?—This was in 1874.

4148. Did that fact itself occur since the School Board was erected?—I am not just as to the year when the School Board was created.

Chairman.

4149. It must have been since 1870, when the Act was passed?—Yes.

4150. Then you do not come before us as a Nonconformist minister to complain of differential treatment of Nonconformists as do you?—No; we complain of the unequal treatment meted out to Nonconformists who are in an overwhelming majority in the district, to those meted out to those connected with the Establishment.

4151. You, as representing the Nonconformist Ministers Association, have no complaint to bring before this Committee that as Nonconformists (I am excluding now the School Board) you have been treated unfairly as compared with the Church of England with reference to the action of the Commissioners?—We say that they have treated us unfairly.

4152. That is what I want you to tell us;—In that they have compelled us to pay what we consider to be an exorbitant and most excessive price for the sites upon which we have built our chapels; whereas they have given to the Church of England people sites, and also contributed 10,000*l.* towards the endowment of their churches, and 5,000*l.* for other purposes connected with the Establishment.

4153. What you mean to say, I think, is that you complain that they have charged an excessive price for the land that they have sold to Nonconformists?—Yes. The grievance of which we complain is that we are compelled to pay an exorbitant price for our sites.

Mr. Jackson.

4154. What do you call "an exorbitant price"? Will you put it in figures. Will you tell us how much land was bought, and what price was paid for it?—In West Dean invariably the price has been at the rate of 240*l.* an acre.

4155. How much was it in each case?—I am not prepared with statistics as to that.

Sir William Harcourt.

4156. Do you state that that is beyond the market price of similar land in the same neighbourhood?—Yes.

4157.

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Mr. ELSON.

[Continued.]

Mr. Samuelson.

4157. That is to say, similar land which does not belong to the Crown?—Yes. Sometimes we have been able to buy a house with the land in a high state of cultivation, and properly fenced, even at a lower rate than that at which we can buy a plot of wholly unproductive land from the Crown in the same district.

Mr. Jackson.

4158. Did they offer to have the matter referred, and a valuation made in any case in which complaint was preferred?—I believe not.

4159. You do not know?—No.

Mr. Arthur Acland.

4160. May I ask you, quite apart from the question of the price you have had to pay for the chapel sites, have you not the feeling that the Crown, administering the land on behalf of the nation, if it grants sites free, whether for schools for religious worship to the Church (which I understand you to say is in a minority in that district) ought to grant sites free to other religious bodies, whether for schools or chapels?—My instructions are that there should be equal treatment. We do not wish free sites. We are willing to pay a reasonable amount for the land that we want. We do not ask for free sites, but for equal treatment.

4161. You think that all the religious bodies, whether they be the Established Church or otherwise, ought to be treated equally?—Yes.

4162. Then I want to ask you about the schools; if, we will say, before 1870 British schools or any Nonconformist schools had been able to obtain sites free, and buildings largely contributed to by the Crown and subscriptions, might you not have hoped by that time to have had fairly flourishing British schools in almost as good a condition as the existing Church schools? I think so.

4163. So that there is a certain grievance from the point of view of education quite apart from the School Board question?—Yes.

4164. If your schools had been treated as the Church schools were, they might have been in fairly good condition you think?—Yes.

4165. I understand that later on you handed those schools over as a general body to the School Boards on favourable terms?—They were rendered unnecessary by the new board schools.

4166. But up to that time, if you had been treated (as you call it) "equally" you would have been in a very different position educationally to what the Church was?—Yes.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

4167. Should you be satisfied on the ground of equality if the Crown charged the market price for land both to churches and to chapels? We should.

4168. You are quite sure?—Equal treatment. We want fair play, and that is all that we ask for.

Mr. Jackson.

4169. You spoke about the very high value which the free miners put upon their rights; have you any idea what the value is estimated to be?—It is impossible to assess the value of the rights.

O.103.

Mr. Jackson—continued.

4170. Then it would be impossible to express any opinion as to the value?—I think so; we think (and we are of opinion that history justified us in thinking) that they have assisted materially in the past in opening up the mineral resources of the forest.

4171. Yes; but that was not exactly my question; my question was as to whether it would be possible to estimate the value of the free miners' rights in the coal?—I quite see what you mean.

4172. You have never yourself made any estimate?—No.

4173. You have never put it as high as 3,671,000 £.?—Oh, well, if you put it in that way, I understand what you mean; that has reference only to the present grant; I went upon the basis of the Crown's one-fifth claim in a speech I made at the Speech House. I say that if the Crown claimed as their one-fifth share $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ a ton then the interest of the free miners, considering that they were entitled to four-fifths, would be very large indeed; that is the ground I went upon.

4174. You did make that statement then in a speech which you made, that you estimated the value of their rights at 3,760,000 £.?—Taking as a basis the claim of the Crown.

4175. I do not mind about the "basis," or whether you work that out correctly, but as a matter of fact you did state that in your opinion the free miners' rights were worth 3,760,000 £.?—Yes; but if you please I must ask the Committee to remember that I took as a basis for that the one-fifth claimed by the Crown.

4176. Then you do not think the free miners' rights are worth 3,760,000 £.?—No.

Chairman.

4177. You think it would be impossible, I suppose, to reduce them to a sum of money?—Yes, I do think it is impossible.

4178. And that any attempt to reduce them to cash value would meet with considerable opposition on behalf of the free miners?—Yes.

4179. They would prefer the present state of things to any attempt to reduce it to a money value, you think?—Yes.

Mr. Heneage.

4180. Can you tell us what were the circumstances under which the Treasury Minute which you read just now was issued?—I am wholly unable to give that information other than to say that it was a result of much hammering on the part of the representative of the Western Division at that time, the late Sir S. Marling.

4181. Then it was in consequence of the representation made to them by your representative that this Treasury Minute was issued saying that there must be equal treatment between Nonconformist and Church of England schools?—I fear the minute will hardly allow us to put that construction upon it, "equal treatment."

Chairman.

4182. The minute is rather that the Crown should contribute to schools qualified as elementary schools receiving the Government grant?—Yes.

4183. And that they should contribute to them

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Mr. ELSON.

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Chairman—continued.

them totally irrespective of whether they belonged to the Church of England or not; is that not the minute?—Yes.

Mr. Heneage.

4184. Up to that time they had never contributed to any schools that were not Church of England, had they?—I believe not.

4185. Whilst according to your own statement they contributed very largely both in sites, in money contributions, and payments for other purposes?—Certainly.

4186. Therefore, if this minute had been acted upon, the circumstances would have been entirely changed, as between the two?—Yes; there would have been an alteration for the benefit as I think of the Nonconformists.

Mr. Samuelson.

4187. Turning back again to another question not concerned with the schools or the chapels, I should like to refer to what Sir James Campbell said in reply to a question of mine; I asked him, Do they (that is, the freeholders) avail themselves largely of the right to buy small portions of land adjoining their gardens; he replied that "they did at one time, but since trade has been so bad there has been no demand for land at all. I do not think I have sold two pieces in the last five years." I think you wish, do you not, to make some statement in regard to that?—I do, if the Committee will allow me. I have noticed that there has been some confusion as to that. A previous witness intimated that the price charged for land was exorbitant. I think, in reply to a question you put to him, I may possibly be able to explain that too. The population of the forest has very considerably increased during the present century. The people were drawn to the forest from the fact that it was a mining district, and the minerals were being opened up; when they came there were very few cottages there; and the men wishing to be in close proximity to their work were bound to erect places in which they could live. They went to the Crown to ask for sites. The Crown knowing (that is the construction we put upon their conduct) that the men were bound to have these sites acted very arbitrarily in fixing the price for the sites that the men were bound to have. If the price charged had been a reasonable one, I venture to think that there would be a greater number of freeholds

Mr. Samuelson—continued.

in the Forest of Dean to-day than there present. One of the reasons why the minute was not applied during recent years for plots of land from the Crown is that the price has been exorbitant.

4188. What is the price?—In West Dean 240 l. an acre; in East Dean 320 l.

4189. But they do not attempt to buy any land like an acre; they only want a perch or two. No, but they are charged in that ratio.

4190. And that you think is an explanation of Sir James Campbell's statement that he does not think he has sold two pieces in the last five years?—You think that the reason of that is that the price is prohibitive?—It is most prohibitive. The price is lower than 320 l. an acre.

4191. It is not that they do not desire to extend their gardens?—Most decidedly not; that is the reason which I have stated is the reason.

4192. You think that in most cases they do not extend their gardens, and that they would not at prices which land would fetch in other places?—I do.

Chairman.

4193. Then totally irrespective of churches, chapels, and schools, but in particular on general principles you contend that the price asked for the surface of the land in the Forest of Dean is too high?—Yes; but if the Committee will allow me, I should like to say that the common knowledge is that every acre of land sold is a large one of their commonable tracts of land, and an exorbitant price has been charged in times when the people are not at all anxious that a lower price should be charged, say for strangers, to come in and buy two or three acres of land.

4194. Then there really is a public feeling in the neighbourhood among the common people in favour of the Commissioners fixing this price. In this way; they are opposed to strangers being allowed to purchase plots at all in the Forest of Dean, but they desire that any freeholder who has erected a little place and wished to extend his garden, should be allowed to do so at a price not higher than 340 l. an acre.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

4195. Have not many of those freeholders in former times, got the sites of their cottages without paying anything at all for them?—He says that they have. I am not able to say for it.

Mr. ARTHUR ARNOLD, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

4196. You were formerly Member of Parliament for the borough of Salford?—I was.

4197. And prior to that I think you were one of the Assistant Commissioners under the Lancashire Distress Act?—Yes.

4198. You have had considerable experience with reference to Crown lands, have you not?—I have taken much interest in the work of the Department for more than 30 years. I mention that date because at that time I devoted very much time and attention on the spot to the disafforesting of Whittlewood and Whichwood Forests, the only two that have been disafforested.

Chairman—continued.

I may also mention that I am President of the Free Land League, which includes nearly all the Members of both Houses of Parliament.

4199. Without going through formal questions and answer it will be better, I think, to ask to state what you wish to say to the Committee in your own way?—The Crown Lands Act of 1851, made a separation of the Crown Lands upon the basis, or the supposed basis of separating lands producing revenue under the management of Woods and Forests, and those producing or supposed to produce no revenue under the Office of Works. That was a division

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

I think, which was not expedient, and which was not strictly accurate. The Royal parks in London produce some revenue, and there appears to me to be no justification whatever, in expediency or advantage, for placing in another division the Royal park at Windsor, which shows a deficiency generally of about 20,000 *l.* a year, and charging that deficiency against the Crown land revenues. There appears to me to be no reason for doing that, more than there would be in the case of the parks in London. I took much interest in this subject during the time I was in the House of Commons; and on one occasion Mr. Gladstone replied to me, with reference to the Department with which this Committee is concerned, that over this Department the Treasury had "a more remote and general control than that which is commonly used in our system of administration," and upon bringing the subject of holding lands in this manner generally before the House of Commons in 1882, Mr. Gladstone said, "I am averse to this method of holding land." Mr. Goschen said, if I may repeat his words, that "it is exceedingly difficult for them" (meaning persons holding lands in the position of the Commissioners), "to manage their estates with all the advantage which belongs to private owners." And perhaps the Committee will allow me to mention that in 1863 a Committee sitting to inquire into the holding of lands under similar conditions by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, made these two observations: "That the system of throwing permanently the administration of large properties scattered over the whole country into the hands of one central body is objectionable." "That independently of the political objection to such a concentration of property, this system unavoidably consumes a considerable part of the revenues on the expenses of valuing and re-valuing land, and in the maintenance of a large establishment of secretaries and clerks. Your Committee are of opinion that this excessive expenditure is to be attributed in some degree to the fact that estates so widely dispersed are placed under the management of one corporation."

4200. What Committee is that you are quoting from?—The Ecclesiastical Commission in 1863. The general policy that I wish to lay before the Committee is that the Crown lands should be dealt with and administered upon another and wholly different principle, that they should be divided, generally speaking, into those appertaining to Royal dignity, to public recreation, and to public offices, and that lands so appertaining should be placed under the Office of Works, and that the remainder of the lands should be disposed of by sale. That would apply especially to the agricultural lands. With regard to the Royal forests, the general policy that I would recommend would be that the forests should be dealt with upon the same method (but upon more equitable principles) as Whittlewood and Whichwood; that is to say, that they should be disforested as to the rights of commoners and others, and that then they should be preserved, where desirable, for public recreation and for growth of timber. The Committee are of course aware that when the last Committee sat to inquire into the administration of the Woods and

Chairman—continued.

Forests, the growth of timber for the purposes of the Navy was the chief object in view. That has now passed away, but in respect of forests generally, such as the New Forest and others, I think to a great extent it would be desirable that they should be kept for the purposes of recreation and for the growth of timber. Then, with regard to the agricultural land, the general policy to be pursued seems to me, to some extent, suggested by the Glebe Lands Act of last Session. But that was a permissive Act, and I am here to advocate a compulsory process. The Glebe Lands Act of 1888 contains the following clause: "For the purpose of facilitating the acquisition of land by cottagers, labourers, and others, it shall be the duty of the Land Commissioners, in giving their approval of a sale under this Act, either to require as a condition thereof that the land or some part thereof shall be offered for sale in small parcels, or to the sanitary authority of a sanitary district for the purposes of the Allotments Act, 1887, or to satisfy themselves that such offer is not practicable without diminishing the price which can be obtained for the glebe land on a sale." I would propose that similar powers to those given by the Glebe Lands Act, 1888, should be made compulsory and applicable to such Crown lands as are saleable, and that power should be given to exchange land for other land, or to take land from private individuals to facilitate the purposes of the Act. If I may continue, I would call attention to a Bill introduced by Lord Randolph Churchill in 1884 dealing with this subject. That Bill contained three provisions. It proposed that power should be provided for persons having the management of lands in mortmain, to sell within 10 years, that at the end of 10 years unsold lands should vest in the Land Commissioners for England, and the Irish Land Commissioners respectively, and that the Land Commissioners for England and Ireland should sell, if they think fit, with powers of management in the meantime. I strongly approve the principle of that proposed measure, although, I think, the time proposed was unreasonably long, and of course it would be a question for any body to consider whether public lands or *quasi* public lands so to be sold should be dealt with by a Land Commission or by local authorities. There is very much to be said on both sides of that question. I should like to add something on the question of the policy of selling public lands. Many people who take great interest in land law reform are opposed to any parting with, or sale of, such public lands. Theirs does not seem to me to be a sound objection, because I hold it to be impossible for the State to alienate entirely its rights with regard to these or any other lands. I think the most advantageous use that could be made of such lands would be by sale to enable a purchaser to obtain in them the largest interest which the State permits, an interest, of course, which can only be an estate in land, and which cannot in any degree forfeit the rights of the State in regard to taxation, or in regard to such share as the State might claim of the increment of value of land due to the action or influence of the community.

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4201. Have

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Mr. ARNOLD.

[Continued]

Chairman—continued.

4201. Have you made any estimate of what the financial result would be of the course that you are suggesting?—I do not entertain any doubt that it would result in a saving of, at least, 50,000 *l.* a year; or, I should say, in an advantage equivalent to 50,000 *l.* There appears to me to be an advantage equivalent in the great public benefit that would accrue from taking these lands from the hands of one central corporation, and establishing by means of sale a very much larger and more productive use of the lands.

Sir William Harcourt.

4202. Upon that question of value I should like to ask you this, are you aware that since these estates passed into the hands of the Commissioners of Woods, they are nearly doubled in value?—That is so.

4203. Assuming, then, they had been sold at the market price of the day in 1852, the State would have lost an annual sum equal to the whole of their then rent?—That increase of value arises to a great extent from a difference in the policy pursued by the Commissioners. Their agricultural land extending over 70,000 acres has certainly not doubled in value.

4204. No; but I understood you to advocate the sale, and I suppose that would apply to building property as well as to other property. You suggest that a central corporation should not hold property of that description. Now I remember at the time of Mr. Burke's great Bill of 1783, which you are familiar with, it was then proposed to sell the land revenues of the Crown?—Yes.

4205. They, at that time, produced an almost nominal sum, at all events very small; therefore, if the policy of selling the land revenue of the Crown had been adopted, at any antecedent period it would have been practically a loss to the State of the greater part of the revenue (which is now 430,000 *l.* a year), which the State derives from it?—That would depend upon the system of charge that was carried out subsequently to the sale; but what I would wish to say in reply to that is, that the increment has nearly all arisen upon the property in London.

4206. I do not think that is so?—Well, very largely. Take the site of the Criterion, for instance; the ground-rent of the site of the Criterion in Piccadilly is treble what it was.

4207. I have no doubt that is so; but then you do not propose to sell the London property?—As an advocate of leasehold enfranchisement I do. Those who approve the principle of leasehold enfranchisement would of necessity be advocates for the sale of the London property.

4208. I want to know whether when you propose to sell the Crown property, you propose to include or exclude the London property?—I should deal with the London property on the principle of leasehold enfranchisement, reserving only what was necessary for public offices and Royal dignity.

Chairman.

4209. Your 50,000 *l.* a year I understand you to make, not in a difference of revenue from the property, but in a difference in cost of adminis-

Chairman—continued.

tration?—Partly in the cost of administration but mainly as to the question of sale.

4210. Will you just explain that if you please?—Roundly speaking the Crown has 300,000 acres with an average of 225 acres each. That is a very inconvenient size, and I have no doubt in my mind that dealing with that land in the spirit of the clause of the Glebe Lands Act that I have mentioned would result in an immensely increased price which might be invested in public funds.

Sir William Harcourt.

4211. That is assuming that there would be found in this country people foolish enough to buy those farms at a high price?—Take the case that occurred the other day. Lord Bath purchased for sale (I am reading from the report), in the parish of Frome 37 small lots of land. These were all sold at 800 *l.* over the reserve price. The price is generally the experience now-a-days that land is submitted in small lots.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

4212. Are you aware that in Frome there are many persons employed in manufacture who would be purchasers of small pieces of land, and that that is a purely practical case as regards agricultural districts?—The process would not be compulsory; but I am informed from the department that the Glebe Lands Act is working to some extent, although it is a permissive statute. I think there would be a very large number of sales. In saying that I am referring to a matter I can hardly ask the Committee to allow me to enter, but I am of course, that it would be incident to the dealing with public land, the reform of the laws relating to the transfer of land, such a process would certainly do very much to change the sentiments and habits of the people in regard to its acquisition.

4213. You know, I suppose, that the price of agricultural land at the present time is very high?—In certain circumstances and certain conditions, yes.

4214. You would propose, I understand, to invest the purchase-money of all this agricultural land in the funds?—And also in assistance to purchasers to purchase.

4215. Mainly in the funds, or mainly in assistance to purchase the lands?—Both could be dealt with. By means of sales, one could give assistance to purchasers, the balance being vested in the funds.

4216. In what way would you give assistance to the purchaser?—I think I would follow the German method as nearly as possible. Perhaps the Committee will allow me to read a paragraph from a Report as to the sale of lands in the Duchy of Coburg. It is from the Commercial Yearbook, 1882. "These farms," the Minister at Coburg reports, "when leased, paid a total rent of 10 per cent. equal to two per cent. on the capitalised value of the property; the sale realised 51 years' purchase of the old rental, some 60 years; the purchase-money at the choice of the purchaser was either ready-money down, or 10 per cent. of the total amount, the rest in annual payments of 5 per cent. interest, not to extend over more than 18 years; all the purchase-money has been

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Sir Michael Hicks Beach—continued.

up. The Minister goes on to report that those sales were made in lots not exceeding six acres to the artisans of the district, and that great moral and material improvement has resulted wherever these sales have been carried out.

4217. By "assistance to purchases," you merely mean such financial arrangements as would enable them to pay the purchase-money by instalments?—Yes; the Germans have a system of State banks to afford such assistance, which, I think, might be very usefully, perhaps, adopted in this country.

4218. When those instalments were paid off, your ultimate investment would be in the public funds?—That might be as Parliament directed.

4219. You are aware, I suppose, at the present moment, that all investments of that kind, as compared with the value of land, are extremely high, are you not?—Yes, that is so.

4220. Do you not think it would be a very losing speculation for the State to sell all its agricultural property and invest in the Public Funds now?—I think if it sold all its agricultural property under conditions of Land Law Reform, such as I mention, under conditions exactly such as obtain in Germany, that it would be a very profitable matter. Let me mention that one of the conditions that apply there, over all the land of the country, is that a man can obtain an absolute title upon evidence of possession for ten years with *prima facie* evidence that such possession had a legal commencement.

4221. You think such reforms would induce people to buy agricultural land, who would not buy it now?—Especially in small parcels.

Sir William Harcourt.

4222. You said you were familiar with Whichwood Forest. I will take a district of that kind which is an agricultural district, not like Frome or Coburg, where you are in the neighbourhood of a large population; but I will take an ordinary agricultural district, and I will take some of the Crown farms in Whichwood Forest; who are the people that you think would buy land there, and what do you think they would give for it in Whichwood Forest?—I would not adopt universally the policy of selling land in small lots, nor do I suppose that the result of such a policy as I recommend would be that all the land would be immediately sold. I suggest the policy of the Glebe Lands Act of last year. Where lands are sold there, the offer, provided it does not lessen the sum received, should be in small parcels. With regard to Whichwood; I did know that district pretty well 30 years ago, and it does not appear to me that that would be one extremely favourable for any dealing in the way of very small parcels of land.

4223. Then let us leave the small land alone, because practically in Whichwood Forest there is no one to buy small holdings. But take large holdings; but take them as they are; if in the present state of agriculture you were to attempt to sell the farms in Whichwood Forest, what do you think you would get for them?—I think if you had your laws altered, and the process of dealing with land amended, you would have a much larger sale of land than you appear to suppose.

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Chairman.

4224. You rest that argument upon the cost of the transfer of land, as I understand?—To some extent.

4225. Supposing an individual purchaser buys from the Crown there is no expense whatever in the investigation of the title of the Crown?—No, but the system under which land is conveyed and held in this country has to a great extent divorced the people from the possession of the soil.

4226. Here is a man who wants to buy, we will say, a farm from the Crown of which the price is 5,000*l.* Well, the Crown will show no title. The Crown's title, of course, is the best title a man could buy under; there is no question about that. He would simply have to pay for the conveyance and the stamp duty, and I very much doubt whether the cost of the conveyance would be as much as if he went on to the Stock Exchange to buy 5,000*l.* London and North Western Stock and paid the broker's commission?—I am not objecting so much to the cost of transfer as to the system.

4227. What I want to follow out is how this is to facilitate the sale. We will assume that the man is anxious to buy the land; how does facilitating the transfer multiply the number of people who have that desire to invest?—When men can undertake all the process of transfer themselves, as they do in Germany, generally without legal assistance, it is found everywhere that there is a vast increase in the number of those who desire to possess land. The transactions in the island of Jersey, for instance, outnumber by thousands any similar transactions upon any equal area of land in the United Kingdom.

4228. Is not the land in Jersey very valuable land on account of its character, and is it not a fact that people are very anxious to buy it?—Not more so than in certain parts of England. There is no reason except in the laws and habits of the country why the agriculture of the Isle of Wight should be so very inferior to that of the Island of Jersey.

4229. But the land in the Isle of Wight is not so good as the land in the Island of Jersey?—To some extent it is.

4230. What is the cost of the transfer of land in the Island of Jersey?—I do not think the cost of transfer so material a fact as the absence of difficulty, and simplicity in the transaction; but, as a matter of fact, I have examined the registers in Jersey, and I could not find a case where the cost exceeded a sovereign.

4231. For what quantity of land?—Well, the largest holding in the island scarcely exceeds 100 acres.

4232. If we were carrying out a scheme of selling 60,000 acres of land, would not the cost, whether it was one sovereign, 10 sovereigns, or 20 sovereigns, be a very inappreciable item?—That is one of the grave faults of our system; that is to say, that the charge upon a large transaction in land is a very trivial percentage, whereas upon small transactions in land it is a very large percentage, and if I were going into the subject thoroughly I should certainly advocate a gradation of charges, a gradation of official fees upon the transfer of land, partly to remedy that grievance.

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Mr. ARNOLD.

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Chairman—continued.

4233. Without following that subject further, we are to take it that you base your theory, or your opinion rather, as to the desirability of sale upon the fact that that sale would be very much facilitated by an alteration in the mode of the transfer of land?—Of course though this only applies perhaps to 70,000 acres of agricultural land, and perhaps a few thousand acres of other land, still there are public lands held in mortmain extending over more than 2,000,000 acres in the kingdom, and before any large dealing with such public land took place it would be desirable to reform thoroughly the method of tenure and the transfer of land.

4234. Let us take the Irish case; take Lord Ashbourne's Act, the cost of the transfer of land from the Commissioners is exceedingly small?—There you see the Solicitor General for Ireland has just now introduced a Bill to amend the error, if I may so, committed by all preceding Governments ever since 1869; the Acts relating to Irish land contain a clause putting the vesting orders of purchasers upon the register of deeds in Dublin instead of upon the record of title; and Mr. Madden has now at the last moment of the Session undertaken, if possible, to amend that and improve the system of transfer.

4235. That will not affect the cost at all?—No; but it will affect what is of far greater importance, that is the simplicity of the security.

4236. I should like you to take me a little further through that 50,000 *l.* a year saving of which you spoke, you say first it would be in the alteration of the income that would arise from the transmutation from one class of property into another?—Roughly speaking, the total charges amount to 118,000 *l.* in this Department, making a charge of about 25 per cent. upon the gross income; that is a very large charge indeed; upon the agricultural land alone, the charge is 13 per cent. exclusive of the establishment charges in London.

4237. You mean the cost of administration?—The cost of administration, those are very large charges; as to the collection of the rent in this department (the total rentals amount to about 350,000 *l.* a year), the charge, owing to its not being very high in London, is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., I do not know of any public corporation whose lands are managed as those of a private person; but I may mention that the charge to the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy which has about 15,000 acres of land is about $2\frac{1}{2}$.

4238. Does that include the whole cost of administration?—That is for the collection of the rents.

Sir William Harcourt.

4239. Have you ascertained what percentage on the rental the outgoings upon this estate represents?—About 25 per cent. of the gross income.

4240. Have you ever heard of a large private estate on which the outgoings are as low as that?—I think it is a very high rate.

4241. I think you would find it very low?—However, I am not attacking the administration of this Department, which I think is, generally, satisfactory, but it is clear from the recent

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

purchases of ground rents, the question for the Committee to consider is whether purchases of that sort, which have gone on of late to the extent of more than a million sterling in the face of a very large opinion in Parliament in favour of leasehold enfranchisement, is a desirable mode of investing. Then of course, if it is good for the extent of a million and a quarter, it is good for the whole of London. The Committee must consider whether it is a policy one way or the other. Are they to encourage the purchase of ground-rents from the Crown or to discourage it? If they are to encourage it on the land nationalization principle, there is no reason why it should not extend to the whole of the metropolis, and why the Treasury should not assist to augment the finances of the Department. But I hold that the administration of land from a centre to so large an extent is prejudicial generally to the interests of the community. Therefore I think it is very undesirable that the policy of land nationalization should be encouraged in this manner. It is good for the whole country, or it is not good to the extent of 500,000 *l.* a year.

Chairman.

4242. You say so far as certain properties are concerned which you think are necessary for the Royal dignity, the public offices and so on, they should remain as they are?—Under the Office of Works?

4243. Under the Office of Works. Secondly, you say the forests; take, for instance, the Forest; should remain as national parks more or less, anything else, that is to say, as places for recreation and public amusement, and that should not be looked at as a remunerative project at all?—To the largest reasonable extent I should devote them to the growth of timber. They should be placed under the Office of Works.

4244. Then coming shortly to the question of agricultural land, you recommend that that should be sold upon two grounds; first, that the cost of its management is very heavy, and secondly, that if it was sold the income resulting from the sale of the chase money would be much larger?—Much larger.

4245. Very much larger than the income now received; and, secondly, upon the ground of public policy you think it undesirable that that land should be held by a private corporation should hold that land in the main?—Distributed all over the kingdom.

4246. Then with respect to the Crown's shore and fishing rights, would you apply the same principle of sale?—Certainly; to the locality, where advisable or possible.

4247. With reference to the London ground rents, you think that that is not an undesirable mode of investment, but that it is a question of what they could be bought to pay?—The question of leasehold enfranchisement would settle that to the 5,000 houses upon the Crown estates.

Sir William Harcourt.

4248. Would you propose to disafforest the forests, then?—Yes.

4249. You know that that was tried a long many years ago, do not you?—The last Committee that sat, I think, recommended the

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Mr. ARNOLD.

[Continued.]

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

of Wolmer Forest, which has never been carried out. That was their only recommendation.

4250. And that it was in contemplation to dis-

Sir William Harcourt—continued.

afforest the New Forest; you would hardly venture, I think, personally, in Hampshire to propose that, would you?—If it became a policy adopted for, and by the whole country.

Colonel Sir ROBERT NIGEL FITZHARDINGE KINGSCOTE, K.C.B., called in; and further Examined.

Chairman.

4251. You wish to say something, do you not, with reference to the matters which Mr. Hobbis has brought before us?—Yes. I may dispose first of all of the Potter's Hill Farm, which is different from the Leafield Farm, by saying that there Mr. Hobbis was only the son of the manager for the trustees of the deceased tenant, and in no other capacity whatever. He was allowed to remain on in the house at some inconvenience to the manager that the Crown had put in when the farm came in hand. I hold in my hand a letter from Mr. Hobbis, dated the 19th March 1888, which ends thus: "It has been a great convenience to be upon the spot to superintend the marketing of the year's corn, and I beg to thank you for the accommodation you have allowed me here." So I think when he left the Potter's Hill Farm he had not much grievance. As regards the occupation of the house at Leafield, I refer to a letter of the 27th July 1888, from which it appears that I gave directions to acknowledge the receipt of his letter, and "to inform you, in reply, that Leafield Farm has been let to Mr. Ferriman from 10th October next, and Colonel Kingscote will not have the power to deal with the farm-house after that date; any application for continuing your occupation of the house beyond the 10th October should be addressed to Mr. Ferriman." That was the incoming tenant, so I gave him full notice and left it to him to settle with the incoming tenant. As regards the rent, I think the Committee have learnt even from Mr. Hobbis that I looked entirely to the lessee of the Crown, Mr. Edelsten, and not to Mr. Hobbis, who was his sub-tenant. I gave orders for an application to be made; first of all, on the 31st July, Mr. Clutton wrote to Mr. Edelsten begging him to pay. I see here, "The abated rent now due under your lease for the year to Michaelmas 1888 is 115 £., and as I wrote you on the 18th instant, I am waiting to hear from you before reporting to Colonel Kingscote if the amount is not paid."

4252. Who is that letter addressed to?—That letter is to Mr. Edelsten; it continues, "Your proposal to pay on or before the middle of November, after the lease has expired, is not in accordance with the lease." I sent him a statement. The next letter was written on the 3rd August. Mr. Clutton again wrote by my authority to say that he had "no authority to make any gratuity out of the rent to Michaelmas 1888, which amounts to 115 £., and by the lease the last quarter is payable in advance. This 115 £. is therefore now

Chairman—continued.

overdue, and not 'due in September next,' as you say in your letter." On the 7th August Mr. Edelsten wrote to Mr. Clutton, "I can only repeat that it is impossible for me to settle the rent account before the middle of November, as previously stated." He subsequently urged the acceptance of 50 £. in satisfaction of claim, and on the 14th September, Mr. Clutton, under my cognisance, wrote again to say that he had received Mr. Edelsten's letters, "and beg to inform you that I cannot advise Colonel Kingscote to accept 50 £. in satisfaction of the year's rent to Michaelmas next. The amount due is 115 £., which, in accordance with Colonel Kingscote's instructions, should be paid by the 15th instant. If you fail to pay, as requested by Colonel Kingscote, other measures will, I doubt not, have to be taken." So that he had due notice. I may say, that before I gave orders for any distress to be put in, the produce of that farm, which was occupied by Mr. Hobbis, was advertised for sale. Therefore I felt, that if I waited, I should have nothing, perhaps, to distrain upon, because you cannot distrain upon money. I think the Committee understood sufficiently about the income tax.

4253. Do I understand from you that before the distress was put in, the produce upon the farm was advertised for sale?—It was.

Mr. Hobbis.] Not the "produce," Sir, only the stock.

Witness.] The stock. As regards the valuation, the appointment of the valuer for the Crown was made on the 5th October 1888; and the reason why the question of dilapidations was not in the first instance proposed to be left to the valuers was that in the lease there was no express provision for it, and in accordance with the usual custom it was proposed to have a survey made by the Crown surveyor as a foundation for a claim which would be made for dilapidations; but at the request of Mr. Edelsten, and in accordance with Mr. Clutton's advice, it was arranged afterwards to leave the question to the valuers to settle. As regards the gratuity, that was given back, the reason it was not given for some time was that we did not know whether the incoming tenant (Mr. Ferriman), would have any claim to make for being kept out of his house, and out of his buildings, by Mr. Hobbis. Until that was all cleared up, and I was assured that there was no further claim, I did not think it right that the gratuity should be given back.

Tuesday, 23rd July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Arthur Acland.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.

Mr. Heneage.
Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Pinkerton.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw-Stewart.

MR. HENRY H. FOWLER IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. GEORGE CULLEY, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. Jackson.

4254. WILL you state to the Committee when the Land Revenues of the Crown in Scotland were placed under the management of the Commissioners of Woods?—The Land Revenues of the Crown in Scotland were placed under the management of the Commissioners of Woods by a Treasury Warrant dated 9th February 1833, issued under the authority of the Act 2 & 3 Will. 4, c. 112, which was amended by the Acts 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 69, and 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 58, having previously been in the charge of the Barons of the Exchequer in Scotland.

4255. Can you state the amount of revenue at the time?—The amount of revenue at the time was about 16,000 *l.* a year.

4256. Can you say what the revenue is now?—Close upon 24,000 *l.*

4257. Can you say how the revenue is derived, and from what kind of property?—It is derived from feu duties, including casualties and surplus teinds, which may be treated as unimprovable rents, issuing out of other people's property.

4258. I do not know whether you would like to explain to the Committee what the meaning of "feu duties, including casualties and surplus teinds" is?—Might I go on and finish first what the property consists of?

4259. If you please?—It consists also of rents of property belonging to the Crown, viz., rents of farms, rents of salmon and oyster fishings.

4260. Are there any mines?—And mines.

4261. Do you desire to explain to the Committee what the feu duties, including the casualties, are; have you the separate items?—I have the separate items before me for the year 1888.

4262. Then will you, if you please, give us those; first, have you the amounts at the time when they were handed over to the Commissioners of Woods?—Not separately.

4263. Then give us them as they are now on your latest return?—The feu duties and casual-

Mr. Jackson—continued.

ties collected in the year 1888, amounted 11,813 *l.* 19 *s.*; the surplus teinds amounted 2,770 *l.* 10 *s.* 8 *d.*; the rents from farms, &c., w 2,273 *l.* 19 *s.* 7 *d.*; from salmon and shell fish 6,004 *l.* 18 *s.*; from mines (the gross receipt 766 *l.* 4 *s.* 9 *d.*

4264. When you say "mines (gross receipts)" do the mines follow the course which has been already explained in changing them?—Yes; one-half of the net income is carried to capital, that in our Parliamentary account there appears half of the net income. That makes a total revenue of 23,629 *l.* 12 *s.*

4265. And can you say the amount of arrears of the different items?—The arrears of feu duties and casualties were 3,109 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.*; the surplus teinds, 8,839 *l.* 7 *s.* 8 *d.*; farms, nil; salmon and shell-fishing, 38 *l.* 5 *s.*; mines, nil; a total of 11,986 *l.* 19 *s.* 4 *d.*, all entirely due to the feu duties and surplus teinds, that is to say, the unimprovable rents issuing out of private property.

4266. Will you describe the nature of the feu duties and the casualties and surplus teinds?—The feu duties are the ancient rents (some are analogous to fee-farm rents in England), reserved in the Crown charters under which properties are held in Scotland; they are generally of small amount, and arise in almost every parish throughout the country. The charters reserving them frequently mention the names of lands which have since been changed, and the same duties are sometimes reserved in the charters of different persons, while the persons liable for them are not always proprietors of the land charged with them. The questions which arise respecting them are, consequently, numerous, and sometimes very complicated; and the collection is rendered more difficult by the fact that the duties are very often reserved in kind (such as grain, cattle, sheep, poultry, gloves, roses, spurs, &c.) and have to be converted into money values.

Ordnance

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Mr. Jackson—continued.

Orkney they are sometimes paid in kind, and the produce has to be sold by the Crown Receiver. When the management of the Scotch revenues was transferred to the Commissioners of Woods, &c. in 1833, considerable arrears existed on the rentals of feu duties, and subsequent investigations have shown that, in some cases, they are accurate.

4267. Are those feu duties spread over the whole or a great portion of Scotland?—Over the whole of Scotland.

4268. How are they collected, and by whom? They are collected by a receiver in Edinburgh, and by the hereditary chamberlains in two instances; by the hereditary chamberlain for the lordship of Dunbar, and by the hereditary chamberlain for the lordship of Strathearn. In other parts of Scotland they are collected by the receiver, except in the Island of Orkney, where we have a special receiver.

4269. Are they collected by salaried officers? They are collected in all cases by salaried officers.

4270. Therefore there are no commissions paid on them?—There are no commissions paid on them.

4271. Does the explanation you have given apply also to the items which appear under the head "Casualties"?—The casualties are in the nature of fines paid on the death of the Crown vassal, or sometimes not only on the death of a Crown vassal, but on any transmission of the property.

4272. You have not the item of casualties separate, have you, showing the amount?—£544 14 s. 4 d. for year 1888.

4273. Now will you tell us about the surplus teinds, what they are, and how they are collected, &c.?—The surplus teinds are the balance of the teinds belonging to the Crown, after payment of the ministers' stipends.

Chairman.

4274. Is it equivalent to tithe, translated into the English language?—There are some differences. I will explain in this way: the surplus teinds are the balance of the tithes belonging to the Crown after payment of the ministers' stipends, which are usually expressed in grain (such as wheat, barley, or bear), and fluctuate in value every year. The teinds are in some cases valued, in others unvalued, and, in the latter case, the amount of teind has to be ascertained from the rent of the lands; and the questions which arise respecting this branch of the Crown revenue, are even more numerous and complicated than those respecting feu duties. When the revenues were transferred to the management of the Commissioners of Woods, &c., not one surplus teind rental was in existence, but the number now in charge is 35. In accordance with an old-established system, the ministers' stipends are periodically augmented, which necessitates a re-apportionment of them upon the teinds, and, pending this re-apportionment, the collection of the surplus has to be suspended, so that there must always exist a considerable

£103.

Chairman—continued.

amount of arrear in respect of this branch of the revenue.

4275. Are the arrears investigated from time to time?—They are continually under investigation.

4276. Are any of them found to be irrecoverable?—Those that we find to be irrecoverable are reported to the Treasury, and discharged with the consent of the Treasury.

4277. I see the income of teinds last year was 2,770 l. 10 s. 8 d.?—Yes.

4278. Is that teinds in the hands of the Crown like tithes are in England, in the hands of the lay impropiator?—That is so; except in the instances where the Crown has heritor's teinds. Where the Crown has actual property, as in the case of the Caithness farms, the Crown is the heritor.

4279. Has the Crown to pay anything to the ministers of the various parishes in which these teinds are collected?—In the case where the Crown is the heritor, as in the case of the Caithness farms, the Crown pays a portion of the stipend of the minister.

4280. Where the Crown is not the heritor, but is simply the owner of the teind?—The Crown does not pay the minister at all directly.

4281. I understand?—The Court of Teinds has the power of increasing the stipend of the minister up to a certain limit; and if that is done, the teinds are charged accordingly.

4282. Supposing the Court of Teinds raises the stipend of the minister of a certain parish in which you own the teinds, and your teinds are increased accordingly; do you put that into your own revenues?—If the minister's stipend is increased by the Court of Teinds that may end in reducing the Crown teinds. The Crown teinds are usually what are called "bishop's teinds," and are not charged until heritor's teinds, for example, are exhausted. If the stipend of the minister is so increased as to exhaust the heritor's teinds, then it begins to be a charge upon the Crown teinds.

Mr. Jackson.

4283. Will you explain this? Is the Crown the owner of the teinds, or the owner of the surplus of the teinds?—Nominally, the owner of the teinds; but really the owner of the surplus of the teinds.

4284. Therefore if the minister's stipend is increased, and a larger portion of the teind is exhausted for the payment of that stipend, that goes to reduce the surplus which comes to the Crown?—That reduces the surplus which comes to the Crown.

Chairman.

4285. Does that explain these great variations?—In what respect?

4286. I see in 1860 the teinds were 11,000 l.; in 1861, 7,500 l.; then they dropped down in 1867 to 1,500 l.; in 1871 to 734 l.; then in 1874 they were up to 4,700 l.; and in 1884 to 4,001 l.; that is an extraordinary variation which I do not quite understand?—The variations are due

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Contd.]

Chairman—continued.

due to two causes: when an augmentation of stipend takes place, there is what is called an "interim locality," until there is a re-apportionment of the teind. Pending that process, which sometimes goes on for a considerable time (there is a wonderful case, I believe, in which it went on for 70 years), we cannot collect the surplus teinds, and so for a time the teinds of that particular parish disappears from the account, and comes in again as an accumulated arrear. But there is another cause of the variation, and that is in the case of what is called repetition. The cases are very complicated, and it every now and then turns out that the amount of teind paid to the Crown is in excess of the proper amount; that there has been, for example, an old valuation, which when discovered and confirmed considerably reduces the value of the teind, and in a case where repayment is made it is deducted from the receipts from teinds.

4287. That does not explain these variations; that will not explain the difference between 7,000 *l.* and 700 *l.*?—Where do you find that?

4288. £. 7,000 in 1861; and in 1871 I find it is 700 *l.*?—I should think in this 1871 case there must have been a large repayment.

4289. Then going on and taking the next year, 1872, it is 1,100 *l.*; then it jumps up in 1874 to 4,700 *l.*, then it drops down again to 1,280 *l.*?—This arose in several cases. A new parish which had not been in charge was brought into charge, and there were heavy arrears which we collected. There were no teind rentals, when the teinds were handed over to the Office of Woods, and there has been investigation going on up till now.

4290. Is this teind a saleable property?—Yes.

4291. How many years' purchase will it fetch in Scotland?—The terms upon which the heritor can redeem the teinds are fixed, but not as against the Crown.

4292. I suppose you would take the same terms as the Church would take, would not you?—We do not accept those compulsory terms because our teinds are of much more value than heritor's teinds or patronage teinds. The teind of least value is the patronage teind, because it is exhausted first.

4293. Do the patronage teinds go first to the minister?—They are exhausted first.

4294. Then the heritor's teinds?—Then the heritor's teinds come next, and the Bishop's teinds (which are the Crown teinds) come last.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4295. I confess I am not familiar with the term "patronage teinds"?—Those are the teinds held by the patron of the parish.

4296. By the titular probably?—Yes, as patron of the parish.

Mr. Jackson.

4297. Perhaps you could put in a statement so that the Committee might know what is the cause of the variation, and why, for instance, in 1871 the amount fell down to 734 *l.*, and why in

Mr. Jackson—continued.

1874 it jumped up to 7,400 *l.*?—We could mine one or two of the largest variations.

4298. That is what I mean?—The subject of teinds is such a complicated one that I like not to hand in, as a necessary part of evidence, but to put into your hands a Paper "teinds," which was written by Mr. B. Sowray, the principal clerk on my side of the Office of Woods, which gives a very description of what teinds are. There are a few people, I am afraid, who understand the question.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4299. Even among lawyers?—I am afraid judging from the litigation which arises now then upon the subject.

Mr. Jackson.

4300. Will you state the salaries of officers and staff in Scotland?—I think I can that on the first day of the Committee's proceedings.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4301. You said that the rent revenue had been transferred to the Commissioners of Woods in 1833?—Yes, by a Treasury Warrant and an Act of Parliament of the year before.

4302. And was not followed by another Act of Parliament in 1834, further defining the powers of the Commissioners with regard to properties generally?—The Act of 1833 was followed by an Act of 1833, the 3 & 4 W. c. 69, and by an Act of 1835, the 5 & 6 W. c. 58; but the principal Act is 3 & 4 W. c. 69.

4303. Did that Act of 3 & 4 Will. 4, confer on the Commissioners of Woods precisely the same powers with regard to the Revenues of Scotland as they enjoyed with regard to the Land Revenues of England under Geo. 4?—Precisely.

4304. That is expressed in Section 2, is it?—Yes.

4305. That includes, of course, powers of sale?—That includes powers of sale.

4306. Have you a power of sale of hereditary property in Scotland; there are no restrictions as in the case of the forests in England, are there?—No, there are no restrictions whatever that I know of. You mean sale of parts of the forest.

4307. Yes, as to the sale of parts of the forest. There are no similar restrictions in Scotland, are there?—None whatever.

4308. Coming back to the teinds for a moment. I think you said that at the time of the reference, 1833, there was no revenue derived from teinds, did you not?—Oh, no; I said there were no teind rentals. I mean that rentals were made out in any such form as we have now; that is to say, rentals by county or districts. I did not mean that there was no revenue.

4309. I understood you about that. B

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Continued.]

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

not the case that the teind property up to that time had been very much neglected, and had come down to a very low point?—Yes, there is no doubt of that. The practice of the Barons of the Exchequer appears to have been to grant tacks of teinds at a *grassum*, or fine of three years' amount of the free teinds, and a nominal rent afterwards. They granted a tack of 19 years; three years free teind and after the three years a mere nominal rent; and a great many of these tacks had run out by flux of time, and, in many cases, even the nominal rent had not been paid. In other cases the nominal rent had continued long after the lease had ceased.

4310. But no second fine had been called for? No second fine had been called for.

4311. There is a Parliamentary Return on the subject, is there not?—Yes. It is Return 94 of 1854. It gives a full account of the position of the teinds at that time.

4312. And from that Return it appears, does it not, that there were 200 leases of teinds, tacks of teinds, that had been allowed to run down without any fine being exacted?—Yes, that is so. I am taking the number from you, for I do not see the number.

4313. On page 10 the number is given as 18?—I find it here now; 208 lease, were in that position.

4314. Does it appear from that Return that the Commissioners of Woods of that time made a recommendation as to dealing with these teinds, as to selling them?—Yes, they did.

4315. Did they recommend that they should be sold; they did, did they not?—Yes, they did; and discussed the subject of the number of years' purchase at which they should be sold. It is stated in this form: "Under all these circumstances we should consider that a rate of purchase varying between 11 years' amount as a minimum, and 18 years as a maximum of the usual produce of the free-valued teind, or of the ascertained worth of the now unvalued teind, would be a fit and proper compensation to be taken for the purchase and extinction of this charge as between the Crown and the heritor."

Mr. Jackson.

4316. Who made that recommendation?—The Commissioners of Woods.

4317. When was that?—In 1842.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4318. Was any action taken upon that recommendation of the Commissioners?—A considerable number of teinds have been sold. The total sum received for sales of teinds from the year 1850 to 1888 was 37,252 *l*.

4319. And if you were to capitalise the value of the teinds still in hand (that perhaps it would be very difficult to do as the income varies so extremely), what would be the result?—Each parish would have to be taken separately; at all events, each parish would have to be treated separately.

4320. So that it would be very difficult for you to say what proportion of the teind property has been sold since this recommendation was made in 1842?—It would be very difficult.
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Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

4321. Can you say what number of years' purchase you accept now, or is that also a varying quantity?—That is necessarily a varying quantity. It varies from two or three years up to 12 years perhaps, as a maximum; depending on this, the approach of an augmentation, and what the effect would be of that augmentation; whether it would leave the Crown teinds, which are bishops' teinds, free, say, for another 20 years, or whether it would exhaust part of them.

4322. The teinds which the Crown holds I believe almost exclusively are teinds which it holds as coming from the bishops?—That is so.

4323. After the abolition of the episcopacy the bishops' teinds reverted to the Crown?—That is so.

4324. But all other teinds are liable to the payment of the minister's stipend before any charge is made upon those bishops' teinds?—All except certain teinds which are held by Universities or charities.

4325. But speaking generally that is so?—Speaking generally the Crown teinds are the most valuable as being the last to be localised on.

4326. And the price of the teinds would greatly vary according to whether there was much or little between you and the liability?—That would be so.

4327. Can you say in what counties those teinds are held?—For the year ending the 31st of March 1888, we received from surplus teinds in the county of Ayr (I will read the pounds only), 40 *l*.; from Bute, 54 *l*.; Caithness, 4 *l*.; Edinburgh, 91 *l*.; Elgin, 127 *l*.; Fife, 625 *l*.; Forfar, 76 *l*.; Haddington, 9 *l*.; Inverness, 86 *l*.; Kincardine, 127 *l*.; Kirkcudbright, 20 *l*.; Lanark, 390 *l*.; Peebles, 262 *l*.; Perth, 581 *l*.; Ross, 245 *l*.; and Wigtown 30 *l*.: total 2,770 *l*. 10 *s*. 8 *d*.

4328. In what way are those teinds collected?—In the same way as the feu duties, excepting that the hereditary Chamberlain's do not collect the teinds. They are collected in point of fact by the general receiver in Edinburgh.

4329. Entirely?—Yes, entirely.

4330. Is that done by correspondence; does he write to the person liable, and then does the person written to send in payment to Edinburgh?—Yes, that is so. It is done by correspondence entirely.

4331. Passing from the teinds to the feu duties; what is the total amount of the feu duties now?—£. 11,269 for the year 1888.

4332. I find from this Return in 1854 that we spoke of before, that a recommendation had also been made with regard to the sale of the feu duties; is that not so. Look at page 8, the second paragraph from the bottom; will you just read that paragraph?—"With respect to the terms to be fixed for the sale of teinds both valued and unvalued, it is obvious that both being liable at uncertain periods to reduction from augmentations for ministers' stipends, in the event of the same being granted by the Court on the usual process, they must necessarily be sold at a less rate of purchase than would be produced on the sale of feu duties, or other fixed revenue arising from land. The rate of purchase of these duties, we have recommended in our Report to your Lordships

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Mr. CULLEY.

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Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

Lordships of the 18th July 1839, should be fixed at not less than 28 years, taken on an average of the produce of these duties for the seven years preceding the sale, and which rate has received your Lordships' sanction as applicable to this branch of the Land Revenue by your Warrant of 30th of that month."

4333. Accordingly in 1839 the recommendation was made that the feu duties should be sold at 28 years' purchase?—Yes.

4334. How far has that recommendation been carried out?—It has been carried out to this extent, that since 1850 the capital sum received for the feu duties has been 26,211 *l.*; but as a matter of fact the sanction of the Treasury was sought to accept a minimum of 22 years' purchase instead of 28 years; and that is now the rule.

4335. In this case I suppose you may make an approximate estimate of what proportion of the feu duties have been sold since they were recommended to be sold in 1839. If capitalised, 11,269 *l.* at 22 years' purchase, what would that come to?—At that time it was 28 years' purchase; so that we would have to calculate down to the time that the number of years' purchase was altered; but at 22 years' purchase the feu duties of 11,269 *l.* would amount to nearly 248,000 *l.*

4336. When was the rule altered from 28 to 22 years?—On the 16th February 1875 there was a general warrant authorising the sale at as low as 22 years' purchase.

4337. Considering that for the greater part of the period in question 28 years was the rule, if you capitalise it, it would come to a great deal more than 247,000 *l.*, would it not?—Yes.

4338. Then according to that, I suppose, certainly not a tenth part of the feu duties have been sold?—It works out at just about a tenth, I think.

4339. Is it still the opinion of the Commissioners, as it was in 1839, that it is very desirable to sell those feu duties?—Distinctly desirable.

Mr. Jackson.

4340. There does not appear to have been much progress made with the sale of them lately?—Curiously little.

4341. Is there any explanation of that?—It is simply that people will not buy. The reason why they will not buy, I think, is that landowners generally are not in a position to buy these things so freely as they used to be.

4342. It is not from any lack of desire on your part to sell them, is it?—In no degree whatever. We take every opportunity we can, and give information as to the number of years' purchase that we will accept.

Chairman.

4343. That is assuming that the person who is your tenant will be the purchaser; if you really want to sell them you should put them up by auction?—They are extremely difficult for us to collect.

4344. Have you any feu duties in Edinburgh or Glasgow?—Yes, we have in both.

Chairman—continued.

4345. Do not you think, looking at high prices ground rents are fetching in and chief rents in Manchester, and these are investments of a very first class, if you had an auction they would fetch large prices; it does not matter whether who buys is in occupation of the property does it?—The feu duties payable to the Crown are in exceedingly small sum. They rank with ordinary ground rents.

4346. Are they under a pound a year, yes; they are very often so small that it is worth collecting them.

4347. I suppose it costs you something to collect them?—There were 2,416 items, in a total receipt of 11,269 *l.*

4348. What I want to point out to you is that an intimation privately conveyed to tenants in possession that you want to sell one thing; going about to sell is another thing; you really wished to sell either these feu duties about which Mr. Crawford is asking you, or the teinds, the way to do it is the way in which a private individual would do it, that is by public sale. Of course if your reserve is not reached you have an end of it. In this country, and I presume in Scotland also, there is such a demand for class investments (and I suppose a feu duty is a high-class investment, is it not) that they would readily sell?—The security is perfect, and it is quite secure in following it.

4349. By "following," do you mean following the lead?—In identifying the property out of the issues.

4350. The Crown title is indisputable, is it not?—The Crown title is indisputable. You that personally I have not the slightest objection to take any means I can to get rid of them.

4351. That is really the answer I want from you. You have no objection to the sale of this property, means, and you are so strongly of opinion that this property ought to be sold, that you are quite ready, with the consent of the Treasury, to do what you could to sell it?—My objection to selling these unimprovable ruins proceeding out of other properties is selling parcels; it does not relieve us of the expense of collection.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4352. And the smallness of the feu duties rather diminish your market, I think, do they not?—Distinctly. Very few people except the owners of the lands charged would buy these feu duties.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4353. I suppose you might in the first instance divide the feu duties into two classes, one of which are some of such considerable size that they would be worth while to put them up to auction, and the other there are one or two largish sums. It is hardly worth our while to accept 22 years' purchase in those cases, that is to say, to pick up good samples and sell them. There would be the inducement to put them up to auction in the case of the large ones. The great object is to get rid of the small troublesome ones.

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Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

4354. Do you take any actual steps to intimate to those who are liable, for instance in small payments, that you are willing to commute?—Oh, yes; we are continually issuing circulars. I have before me a copy of the notice which goes on to inform them that the price offered for feu and other duties payable annually is to be at least 22 years' purchase of such duties calculated on their annual value during the previous seven years. Then it gives the price of the casualties. That is taken from the Conveyancing Act of 1874, fixing the price of the casualties. Then this circular also gives the charges for the deed; when the purchase-money is less than 20*l.* 5*s.*, and so on. That is put into letters in corresponding with the persons who pay the feu duties, and every opportunity that we can obtain is taken advantage of.

4355. Has there not been some variation or fluctuation in the policy of the Department with regard to the commutation of the feu duties?—Only that it was not until 1875 that the price was reduced to a minimum of 22 years from the minimum of 28 years. I mean that as showing the modern inclination is perhaps stronger to sell now than it was in earlier times.

4356. Suppose one were told by a considerable proprietor that he had understood some years ago that the Department were willing to commute feu duties, that he had communicated with them and offered to commute, and that he was informed that the Department had stopped the policy to accept commutation, would that be a mistake?—It would be a very decided mistake, unless there is some very peculiar position involved in it.

4357. You cannot think of any feature in the policy of the Department that would give rise to such an impression as that?—There happens to be one large feu duty of about 500*l.* a year, and the office did decline to sell that at 22 years' purchase.

4358. In what county was that?—It arose from Orkney.

4359. Do you remember refusing to commute one in the county of Fife in the last few years?—No; I do not remember. I think it very unlikely that I would refuse to commute anywhere, unless in a very special case like that which I have just mentioned, and that I would not refuse to commute at a fair price.

4360. With regard to the teind, do you also take steps to let the teind payers know the same thing?—Yes; we do. We take the same sort of steps.

4361. Passing from that to what is described as "lands and tenements" on Paper 9, what do they consist of?—There is another paper which gives more detail.

4362. Paper 8, is that?—Yes.

4363. Does that contain all the lands and tenements?—That contains all the lands and tenements belonging to the Crown in Scotland. You will see that there are five good farms there.

4364. In three counties; is that so?—In three counties, Caithness, Linlithgow, and Stirling; there are three farms in Caithness, one in Linlithgow, and one in Stirling.

4365. What is the total annual value of those; the total rent?—They are mixed up in the 0.103.

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

Return with some other small receipts; but I will put them together in a moment; I will put it in afterwards; I cannot see very well to do it now. The whole sum is about 2,274*l.*; that is chiefly, of course, the rents of those farms.

4366. Of the five farms?—Yes; there are other small incomes mixed with it. There is a rifle range, for instance, which is let at 80*l.* at Stirling, and a small holding rented at 18*l.* a year in Linlithgow, and a shooting in Linlithgow which is let at 4*l.* We may consider that the "shootings" are parts of the farm.

4367. The present rent is 2,273*l.*?—Yes.

4368. To what extent is that a reduced rent; what was the highest rent, and in what year?—Three of those farms were re-let in 1882, in Caithness. They were all put into good condition at that time. As I think I informed the Committee a few days ago, my predecessor, Sir Henry Loch, advertised two of those farms, either to let or to sell. He had no bid for them as a subject of sale, but they were at that time put into very good order, and in such good order as he thought would command the highest rent. The reductions since that time have been, on one of those farms, 20 per cent.

4369. Since 1882?—Since 1882, on another 25 per cent.; and an arrangement is now going on with regard to the third. If that is completed according to the report which I have made to the Treasury it will amount to a reduction of 27 per cent. upon the highest rent reserved in the lease. In that case there was a rise of rent after eight years; but taking that into consideration, the reduction upon the highest rent covered in this lease is 27, or will be 27 per cent.

Mr. Shaw-Stewart.

4370. Are those permanent reductions?—Permanent reductions to the end of the lease. In the case of the farm at Linlithgow, the reduction has been 23½ per cent.; in the case of the Stirling farm the reduction has been 23·7, or say 24 per cent. Those farms are all what may be called well-equipped farms, in a condition to command the highest possible rent.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4371. That is approaching a reduction of 25 per cent. over all, is it not?—It comes to nearly 27 per cent., because of the peculiar position of one of the farms.

4372. Apart from any temporary depression in the market, in your opinion would it be desirable for the Crown to retain those farms or to sell them?—Speaking generally, I should say, sell all outlying farms of that kind; but I think it would be a disaster to attempt to sell just now farms in such good condition as those are. The rents have been greatly reduced; the buildings are such that I do not expect any more than ordinary repairs upon any one of those five farms in Scotland for some years to come; and taking that into view I should deprecate any hurried attempt to sell those farms.

4373. But in consequence of their comparatively small size, and their scattered position, you would regard the whole of them as outlying property?—The farms themselves are not small. There are three farms on one estate.

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4374. And

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Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

4374. And one on each of the other estates?—Yes. The farms themselves are large farms; but speaking generally, I think it would be desirable to sell any outlying farms. One is in a rather peculiar position. It involves what is called the King's Park at Stirling. I think there might be considerable debate as to the Crown parting with a farm such as that. The park is greatly used by the public for recreation.

4375. Is the grazing let with the farm?—The grazing is part of the farm.

4376. How are those farms managed?—In Caithness we have a resident factor, who is factor for other landowners; he is also himself a very large sheep farmer under the Duke of Sutherland, and also a bank agent. He is constituted Crown factor, and for a retainer of 40*l.* a year he acts for us in all respects as a land agent, except that, as in Scotland very often happens, he does not act as the receiver of rents. The receiver of rents in Edinburgh receives the rents, and the factor, who lives in Thurso, near the farms, is the agent. He advises me on all matters concerning the farms. He visits them without expense. The name of the factor is Mr. Mackay. Mr. Mackay is expected to visit the several farms without charge, to furnish reports, and to inspect works in progress.

4377. About what percentage does that 40*l.* represent on the rent of those farms?—3·6, rather over 3½ per cent.

4378. What is the rent of the farms?—Altogether 1,103*l.*, but Mr. Mackay receives some other small rents.

4379. Who receives the rents?—The receiver in Edinburgh.

4380. Does the factor act under your personal directions?—Under my personal directions, and communicates directly with me.

4381. Apart from those farms at Caithness, how are the others managed?—In the case of the farm at Stirling I expect the receiver in Edinburgh, though he has no special education in that direction, to go and look after any particular point that I wish to be communicated with upon. Practically, I have it in my own management, subject to the employment of some local factor or architect when occasion arises. I think it was in the year 1884 the lease of the King's Park Farm ran out, and I employed Mr. Wootton, who is a well-known agent and factor in Scotland, to report to me upon all that he thought necessary for a new lease. He did so, and then I examined the farm myself, and made up my mind what should and should not be done; amongst other things there was a good deal of drainage to be done. To carry that out I employed, also acting on his advice, Mr. McLachlan, who is an architect and surveyor in Edinburgh, who drew out the specification and received tenders. The work of cutting, and so on, the actual operation itself, was put under the charge of a foreman, to whom I paid a daily wage, and charged, of course, to the general cost of the drainage. It was his business to be on the ground, as he was, I believe, from morning to night, to see every pipe laid, and to lay a good many of them with his own hand.

4382. Is the farm in Linlithgow managed in the same way?—That is managed in the same

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

way. I have not had any large operation but in that case we have had a new water. I employed a surveyor of Edinburgh after that; and there was some alteration of fences. That is a particularly nice farm.

4383. Passing now to the salmon fishings, see in Paper 9 that in 1856 the revenue from salmon fishings was only 54*l.*, is that correct?—Yes.

4384. What is the revenue now?—16,004*l.* 18*s.* last year.

4385. Is it not the case that the property has been very much developed after a particular case?—Yes, after what was known as the Gammell case?—The final decision of that case was given by the House of Lords in 1859; and it was after that that it related to sea and coast fishing. There has been very little fresh-water fishing in Scotland since then, all belonging to the Crown.

4386. Will you explain to the Committee what the question was that was decided in the Gammell case?—It was that the right of fishing round the coast of Scotland belonged to the Crown, or was in the Crown; not merely a trust for the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, but as part of the patrimony of the Crown.

4387. As part of the hereditary revenue?—Yes, part of the hereditary revenue.

4388. And since that time it has been so much developed, has it?—It is since that time that the development has taken place. The Crown of Woods have used all the means in their power to develop it.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4389. What do you say is the date of the Gammell case?—1859; the case was begun some time before, I think, in Edinburgh.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4390. 1851, I think it was?—Yes, it was commenced some years before.

4391. There are two recent Returns furnished to Parliament, which show the dealings of the Department with the salmon fishings, is that correct?—Yes, that is so.

4392. One is the Return of the 31st May 1889?—Yes; that is a very cumbersome Return with. It is so long.

4393. Yes, it is. Then there is one furnished the other day, of the 23rd May 1889?—Yes.

4394. What does that last return show?—It is a "Return giving each case where a right of salmon fishing in the sea off the coast of Scotland is held under a lease from the Crown, showing the original date and rent at which a lease of that right was first given by the Commissioners of Woods, and the present rent paid in each case, and stating the distance to sea to which the lease under such leases are expressed to extend. Then there is a further return of the amount obtained from sales; that is on page 7 of the Return.

4395. Speaking generally, is the result of the first part of this Return that the rents of the salmon fishings have very greatly increased since the management of the Department?—Yes, greatly. Some of the cases are quite striking.

4396. Perhaps you will read one or two?—I will take one or two in different counties

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in Aberdeen: Boddam and Sandford, which in 1858 was let at 6 *l.* 0 *s.* 10 *d.*, is now let at 100 *l.* a year. Passing on from that to the next group, from Aberdeen into Banff, part of the coast being in both counties, the fishing has been amalgamated; but whereas for the three fisheries into which it was then divided the Crown received 22 *l.* 10 *s.* at first, it now receives 110 *l.* There are some cases further on; as in Berwickshire and Haddington. There are some fisheries here which were let at 24 *l.*, and which are now let at 500 *l.* On the coast of Fife there is a case where a number of fisheries were let at separate rents amounting to 122 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.*, which are now let at the *cumulo* rent of 737 *l.*

4397. There is one at the bottom of page 5, which seems a very large rise, North Loirston and Altens?—At North Loirston and Altens, the former rent of the two fisheries was 120 *l.* and is now raised to 700 *l.*

4398. Now, as to the part of the return which relates to sales, what is the total amount which has been sold, of salmon fishings?—£. 30,665.

4399. Since what year is that; what is the date of the first sale?—That is the amount of the sales given upon this return.

4400. That is from the beginning, is it not?—I should think that those are probably all the sales; at least of the sea fisheries.

4401. I suppose we may take it that all these sales are subsequent to 1859?—Certainly. I think the first sale was in 1871. That was the Girdleness fishery.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4402. Between 1871 and when?—1889.

4403. Since 1871?—Yes; since 1871.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4404. The total amount is 30,000 *l.* odd?—Yes.

4405. I see there are some considerable sums; Girdleness, 5,400 *l.*; South Loriston and Cove, 400 *l.*?—Yes.

4406. Then this last year there are other large sums; Dysart, 4,000 *l.*?—Yes.

4407. I would like you to tell the Committee what the policy of the Department is with regard to the sale of salmon fishings. Do you desire to keep them, or do you desire to sell them?—I desire to keep them until we know (and we are certain as soon as we can) that we have got to the full value. You see there has been a gradual development, and it is not until we are satisfied that we cannot do any better that we have been in the habit of selling them; unless they were very small things and difficult to manage.

4408. You have first of all tried to let them on short leases?—Yes.

4409. Then in that way you have tried to arrive at the value?—That is so. The Girdleness sale was a compulsory sale. The foreshore was transferred to the Aberdeen Harbour Commissioners, and we were obliged to part with it. The next sale was the South Loriston and Cove.

4410. When was that sold?—In November 1883. I will give you a short history of that. It was let for three years from Martinmas 1858, at a rent of 127 *l.* 10 *s.*, and it was let again for 0.103.

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

five years from 1861 at 278 *l.* It was let again for seven years in 1866 at 285 *l.* It was let again for 10 years in 1873 at 303 *l.*, and was ultimately sold in 1883 at 23 years' purchase. The next sale was that of Roseisle in the county of Elgin. That was sold in November 1883, about the same time. It was sold for 3,850 *l.*; being nearly 26 years' purchase of the rent. That had been let three times.

4411. I will not trouble you to go through the details; but leaving out Girdleness, which was a compulsory sale, the first really considerable sale that you made was South Loriston in 1883?—Yes, that was so.

4412. Accordingly we may take it that the policy of selling is a recent policy?—It is a recent one. The whole development itself is a recent one; but the policy of selling is still more recent.

4413. Is it the case that a considerable number of landed proprietors in Scotland have the right of salmon fishings under their charters?—Yes, a great many have; in almost all the rivers they have it under charters.

4414. But on the sea coast?—On the sea coast many have.

4415. I believe, when a proprietor has salmon fishings in his title, it is expressed generally, and without saying whether it is river, or whether it is on the coast?—Yes.

4416. Can you say about what proportion the Crown retains still of the salmon fishings in Scotland?—Of the sea fisheries?

4417. Of the sea fisheries compared to private owners?—We know exactly what we own ourselves and what we have sold; but I do not know that there is any return from which we can get at only private owners. We only know of one proprietor who is a larger owner than the Crown.

4418. Who is that?—The Duke of Richmond. I think that is the only one we know of.

4419. How do you keep the record of your own rights with regard to salmon fishings. What I mean is this: before a particular salmon fishing is let for the first time, does it appear in any place?—Before it is let, no. Practically, just now my hands are tied; I cannot undertake new leases until this Committee has expressed an opinion.

4420. Do you understand my question; do you follow it?—We have no means of knowing, till experience has taught us, whether a place will be profitable as a salmon fishery or not. The first operation that takes place, so far as I am concerned, is that somebody applies to me for a salmon fishing, imagining that they can get something from it. Then I ascertain who is *ex adverso* proprietor, and try if I can to deal with him, beginning with a short lease to ascertain whether the thing is workable or not, and about what value it is. At the end of that lease I should advertise it. I am taking the case of when there is only one applicant; something is due to that one applicant to try and explore the thing; I should then advertise it, and continue afterwards to advertise it at the end of each lease.

4421. The fishing does not appear on your books in any way until an application is made to you

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Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

you to grant it?—No, it does not. We have a plan-book showing all the salmon fisheries we know of on the 6-inch Ordnance maps. If anyone makes inquiries we send a plan to them, and mark what is let. We have on record now many spaces which have never been let.

4422. Then how do you know that there are any salmon fishings there?—We do not know. We mark them out as spaces, or as lengths of foreshore where the salmon fishing would belong to us. We are prepared to let that particular length as one fishing. After the decision in the Gammell case, the Office of Woods sent a surveyor to examine into the salmon fishings round the coast of Scotland, and to ascertain where the Crown rights were or might be.

4423. Then do you generally offer either a lease or a purchase when it is a case of purchase, of the salmon fishing, to the proprietor *ex adverso*?—We find it greatly to our advantage, considering that a certain user of the shore is necessary, to deal with the *ex adverso* proprietor if we can; and what we do is this: we advertise the fishing to let; the *ex adverso* proprietor (or anybody else) may offer, but if he declines to offer, or offers less than the highest tender, and we ascertain that the other is a good man, we agree, if he wishes to have it, with the *ex adverso* proprietor, to lease it to him at a slightly lower rent than that offered by the highest offerer, on the condition that he will accept the highest offerer as a tenant. We give him a slight reduction on what we could receive, for the purpose of avoiding any collision with him as the landowner; and that he may control and look after the fishing.

4424. He is bound to give the sub-lease, is he?—He is bound to give the sub-lease to the man who has been the highest offerer to the Crown.

4425. In dealing with the salmon fishings, have you ever received complaints as to any interference with the public rights?—I do not think we have officially received any complaints as to any interference with the public rights. Lately I advertised to let the salmon fishery round North Morar running into Loch Nevis, and received half-a-dozen applications for particulars; but in the meantime it was asserted in Parliament, I think, that from the rocky nature of the coast we should interfere with the operations of the white fishermen. I think that that same averment has been made in other cases; the effect produced was that my hands are held until the Committee express an opinion as to whether they shall be set free.

4426. When you mention Loch Morar, am I wrong in thinking that the salmon fishing had been all disposed of round Loch Morar?—Loch Morar is, itself, a fresh-water loch. The river Morar discharges into the sea. Round the headland into Loch Nevis is the part I wished to let.

4427. That is in the sea?—That is in the sea. Loch Morar itself and the River Morar are disposed of, except one side of the River Morar, which is let on a lease of 8 l. a year.

4428. Has not a special inquiry been promised which will cover the dispute about Loch Morar?—Well, upon my word, I am not in a position

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

to answer you as to that, but I will tell you I do know. A Commission was granted Government, which they described as a Commission to inquire into the right of fishing round the coast of Scotland. I forget the exact words of the reference. I think Buchanan (who, I believe, is one of the Members for Edinburgh) asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he would include in the reference Loch Morar, which is a fresh water loch. I know of it is from a newspaper which comes from the district, where the question of salmon fishing has caused some interest. I find the answer was that Mr. Smith would consider it.

Mr. Heneage.

4429. This Commission of Inquiry into the rights of the Crown with regard to fishings was with regard to the three-mile limit, was it not, round the coast?—That is what I expect. I do not expect myself that Mr. Heneage would allow the reference to extend to a particular case of fresh-water fishing, so I should be very glad if the Committee deal with the Loch Morar case.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4430. I have no very detailed questions about it; but perhaps some other Member will ask you more particularly about it. What was the objection taken to the action of the Government in the Loch Morar case?—There were objections which I heard urged first of all in the House of Commons; one was that I had let it away much under its value. That I think may consider quite exploded. The case has been tried in Edinburgh, and competent people have given evidence about it. The gist of it is that the thing is of no pecuniary value as a stand. Another objection was that in doing this I had in some mysterious way alienated the rights of the public in the loch for other purposes than salmon fishing. What I contended was, that I had alienated was the right of the Crown in the salmon fishing; but it was held that by this I had put the *ex adverso* proprietors, to whom the sale took place, in a position to exclude the public altogether from the loch.

Mr. Jackson.

4431. You say "it was held" that you had done this. Do you mean that it was so held by the court?—No. I mean that it was so held outside. I beg your pardon for using the word "held." It was "held" by the Member who mentioned it in the House of Commons. It was "held" by the law courts. They held a different doctrine. It was practically the same as what came out in a case of interdict in the courts of Edinburgh, upon an application from the *ex adverso* proprietors to whom I had sold: to interdict certain Mr. Macdonell and three other men from fishing in the loch and from using the loch with boats. The defendants, that is to say Mr. Macdonell and the others, withdrew their objection to the fishing. Then the question of the right of the loch was argued, and the court granted an interdict against boating on the loch, except as a public highway.

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Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4432. Between certain points?—Yes; I think I am right in that description.

4433. I think so. Only with this addition, that that was not a decision of the court, but an interposing of their authority to an arrangement come to between the parties?—I could not quite describe that. The result is that anybody can use that loch as a highway; but they cannot fish in it.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4434. To come to the nature of the complaint that was made in that case, and might be made in similar cases; the surrounding proprietors had not previously asserted any right to prohibit the right of putting boats on the loch, so far as you know; is that so?—The truth of the matter is that it is an exceedingly sparsely populated district, and the whole surroundings of the loch belong to these proprietors. I do not know that they had ever attempted to stop anybody using it.

4435. I have not found anything in the Blue Book to show that they had previously attempted to exclude the public in boats?—No, I think not. I think it was asserted for them in the case tried in Edinburgh that they never had.

4436. Having purchased the salmon fishing from the Crown, they did in this lawsuit assert the right to exclude the public?—They did in the first instance. They were greatly annoyed, I believe, by the action taken by Mr. Macdonell, and they did apply for an interdict against any use of the loch by boats.

4437. Accordingly this case seems to show that proprietors may acquire salmon fishings, not exclusively for the return they expect from them, but with the object of excluding the public from a piece of water; is that so?—I would like to answer that as well as I can, in the presence of the Solicitor General for Scotland, by explaining; and he will correct me if I am wrong; that I think the whole difference of the purchasing of that salmon fishing as a means of preventing persons trespassing amounts to this, that until the proprietors had the right of salmon fishing they were not in a position to apply for an interdict against anybody coming to fish for salmon. I think that is the only change in the position. What I had to consider in that sale was this: it is perhaps not a typical case, but it is one of the cases which every now and then crop up in Scotland where a loch or a river may be very greatly improved for fishing purposes, by the removal of some obstruction; sometimes a complete obstruction, in one case and only a partial one in another. Loch Morar is about 12 miles long, and about a mile wide, emptied by a river which is half a mile long; about the middle of that river is a waterfall which, in anything except considerable flood, would stop the salmon from passing. Salmon do get over it, but only when the river is in flood. In the chief feeder, the River Meoble, there is an impassable fall. The impediment in the River Morar could not be removed by the Crown, or by anybody other than the proprietors. That is, no doubt, a consideration which weighed with the proprietors, especially Mrs. Cameron Campbell, that is to say, the improvement of the fishing by the removal of obstructions. They would be

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Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

anxious to deal with the Crown before the fishing became of greater value. That no doubt was to them an inducement to purchase, and it was distinctly an inducement to me to sell, because the Crown is very considerably interested in sea fisheries, and very little indeed in freshwater fisheries, and our great object would be to open out a large breeding bed for salmon. I consider that not only the Crown but the public in general gain by every yard of breeding ground that can be opened out. It was really with the view to contributing to that sort of operation that weighed very much with me in rather pressing the sale of the Loch Morar fishing, although we distinctly received a much larger price than any commercial value that could be put upon it. I should also take the opportunity of mentioning to the Committee, in connection with these salmon fishery cases, that since the Committee sat we have had an application from the proprietors on the River Conon, which runs out of Rosshire into Cromarty Firth, to sell to them the right of salmon fishing above a natural impassable obstruction, offering to pay to the Crown 1,000 £. for the charter of the fishing above the fall. Certain negotiations with the Office of Woods and the proprietors began 10 years ago, but there is naturally very considerable difficulty in settling terms as between the proprietors. The proprietor of the impassable fall possibly has an advantage in a very good pool below that fall. When he loses that advantage, of course those who gain are the people above him; so that there is a good deal of difficulty in settling who is to pay. Whether that proprietor is to receive money for giving up this pool, or what proportion he is to pay of the 1,000 £. The result to the Crown would be of course the gain of this 1,000 £.; the result to the public would be, as consumers, the gaining of a large breeding bed for salmon; and that is entirely stopped, because I cannot now do what I think is the natural thing, that is to accept the offer of the proprietors. The particular sum I may say was fixed upon eight or 10 years ago between my predecessor and the proprietors.

4438. Eight or 10 years ago?—Eight or 10 years ago. In 1880 I think it was.

4439. Why has it never been carried out?—Because they have not been able to agree as to the proportion of the expense.

4440. Have they agreed now?—They have agreed now. They have offered to pay me 1,000 £. if I convey the right above.

4441. I suppose it is not suggested in any quarter that there is any interest on the part of the public or of anybody else to prevent such an arrangement, is there?—The complaint made, I am bound to say, is a very vague and general one, but the Treasury, I think, made a promise to the House that there should be no fresh dealing with these fisheries until this Committee had an opportunity of considering the question. That is why I asked the Committee to listen to what I have said.

4442. To turn again to Loch Morar, I think you said it was the case that the price received was largely in excess of the market value of the salmon fishing?—No doubt. The price is excellent; as Lord Young (who knows it very well, amongst others, and who tried the case in Edinburgh)

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burgh) said, it was really of no commercial value. What I had to do was, of course, to make as good a bargain as I could for the Crown. It was of some little value, and I looked also to the prospective value, if they choose to open up the river.

4443. You attribute the willingness of the proprietors to give a large value to the removal of that obstruction in the Loch Morar or the river?—Certainly, one of them; I may say certainly two of them. These are the owners of the impassable obstruction in the River Meole: they were distinctly interested. I think they were all interested more or less; two of them were interested in a greater degree, and in consequence of that Mrs. Cameron Campbell was the first to agree to my terms.

4444. Is there any mention of that obstruction in this long correspondence in the Blue Book?—I think you will find Colonel Macdonald makes a reference to it and Mrs. Campbell's agent. There are many references to the difficulty of fish getting over the fall in the River Morar.

4445. I have not found any reference to that being the motive of the purchaser?—No.

4446. Nor do I remember its being stated in the House of Commons?—No, I do not think it was; but it was distinctly one of my motives, and I pressed the point in more than one interview with the late Lord Lovat.

4447. As a matter of policy, supposing that it was true that those proprietors acquired the fishings mainly for the sake of excluding the public from the loch, whether it be so or not, and that that would give them the right of doing it for the first time; certainly they asserted it for the first time; would you feel justified in taking that into consideration, namely, the interest of the public in the matter, before you concluded a bargain with the *ex adverso* proprietor of the fishing. Should you feel entitled, or would you feel bound to do it?—I should not feel bound to do it.

4448. Would you feel entitled to do it?—Well, it is rather a difficult question to answer, because the thing has not arisen, and I do not think it can arise. I can only alienate what belongs to the Crown. I cannot alienate any public right which exists. I cannot interfere with it. My argument all through the Morar case was, that I had simply sold nothing but the right of salmon fishing.

4449. No doubt. I do not think you appreciate my point. It is rather difficult to bring out. Of course you cannot sell anything that the Crown has not got?—No.

4450. But you may sell a right which will enable the proprietor to exclude the public?—Selling the right of salmon fishing would sell the right to exclude the public; but the public had no right to fish for salmon. Take the case of a river which has been referred to, sales on a little river called the Whitadder, which is notoriously a trout stream, and into which bull trout struggle in the autumn over a great impediment. There there were leases of 5s. a year to *ex adverso* proprietors, some of which I have sold, the lowest sum I have received being 10l. Their object again, I think, was pretty much the same as that which I tried to explain subject to the cor-

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

rection of the Solicitor General. I should at least that their object was to put them in a position to obtain an interdict against individual fishing for trout really, but oste fishing for salmon in those waters, as well have all rights connected with their land.

4451. Will you repeat that case?—I mean it as explaining what I think to be the change that takes place as between the and the *ex adverso* owner by my selling salmon fishing. Both cases are cases where salmon fishing is of very little value. second case I mention, which is the Whitadder the case of a very charming trout stream, has been occasionally invaded by persons the pretence of salmon fishing. These proprietors have held leases of their frontages for year from the Office of Woods. I thought farce to keep up these rentals of 5s., so I to the proprietors asking them to purchase. refused. We have two still on our 5s. rentals the others accepted. Then, after a bargain the amount of frontage, I received sums varying from 10l. up to 30l., the smallest being and I considered that I had done what was for the Crown. Now I think the only change that took place then would be that those gentlemen who are the *ex adverso* proprietors would be in a better position to stop a trespasser than would have been beforehand. I think that, to stop a trespasser who pretended fishing for salmon, they would have been obliged to prove some actual damage. As soon as they had purchased the right of salmon fishing they would be in a position to go and ask for an interdict as against any individual.

4452. That is not a case that quite bears the point I want to arrive at. I am only trying to know what the view and policy of the Department is, without expressing any opinion whatever; but in a case like that of the Whitadder, I understand that is a case in which there was certain salmon fishing of no great value in the river, which had not been granted out to anybody by the Crown?—I do not remember the case in the Whitadder, unless it be where the Whitadder and Black-Adder adjoin; that was not under lease.

4453. I thought that was precisely the case you were giving. I thought you said those salmon fishings which did not belong to the proprietor at the time?—No, they did not.

4454. But you gave leases to various proprietors for a rental of 5s.?—That had been the case before my time.

4455. And I understood you to say that they ultimately sold them?—I thought what you were asking me was whether any part of that river was under lease even for 5s. I think there was a part where the two streams, Whitadder and Black-Adder, join, and that Sir Houston Boyd of Black-Adder had no lease; nobody was fishing in him; but when he found out that the other proprietors had purchased, he proposed to purchase and did purchase.

4456. I only want to know what the policy of the Department is. Here is a case of salmon fishings which are of exceedingly small value, say 5s. a year?—Yes.

4457. But may it not happen that the p

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prize the right of fishing for salmon, small as the value is?—The public have no possible right. Every man that fished in that river was simply a poacher as against the Crown; and what they did do in that particular case was to go through the pretence of fishing for salmon, and fish for trout.

4458. And the trout fishing, I presume, belonged to the proprietors?—Yes; I may say for the proprietors that to my own knowledge a great part of that river was open, and that there was no attempt to stop the public. At all events, there was no attempt some years ago when I knew the river.

4459. If the public, under the pretext of salmon fishing, were really spoiling (or poaching upon) a trout fishing which did not belong to them, you would think fairly enough that that was a fair interest to consider?—I think so.

4460. But on the other hand suppose the public were not injuring anybody's fishing that did not belong to them, but were merely seeking to fish for salmon which belonged to the Crown, would it not be better to allow the public to do so than to accept 5s. from the proprietor?—There would be no question in that case of accepting the 5s. I mean I should have to consider the case for what it was worth. If I found that I had a piece of river, for example, that the public was using, that was worth money to the Crown, I am bound to get that money. I might grant licenses to individuals and so on, to meet the particular case, instead of granting the right to any one individual.

4461. How many of those cases were there where you were only charging 5s.?—That is the only case I know of. I think there were five. My real object there was to get the thing off the rental. I thought it absurd to be keeping these 5s. leases on the rental.

4462. Would it not be better to leave it to the public for nothing than to give it to a single person for 5s.?—You mean in the case of letting?

4463. Yes, in the case of letting?—I do not know that that was ever considered by the Office of Woods. They merely kept alive their right of fishing through the person who paid the 5s.; I thought he was the man who was worthy of consideration. He paid the 5s., and he possibly made use of the Crown lease to the extent of being able to protect himself. It was a protection against people who had no earthly right to invade his water or his land.

4464. Is it not maintained with regard to the Tweed that there has been a considerable amount of fishery belonging to the Crown in which the public used to be allowed to fish, which is now let or sold to private proprietors?—Not in the Tweed?

4465. In the Tweed and the tributaries of the Tweed?—The only example of it is the Whitadder, and that river is a peculiar one; I daresay you know it runs into the Tweed on the north side, near the mouth of the Tweed, and no salmon proper, as far as I know, ever try to ascend it. What do you try to go up it are bull trout, which are

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

well known on the Tweed; but the river is essentially a trout river.

4466. Then if the Crown has a fishing right of very small value you do not feel that they are under any obligation to leave it for the use of the public, however small the sum they could sell or let at?—No other way. My duty as one of the heads of the Revenue Department is to obtain revenue.

4467. Do you know the value of the fishery for which 5s. is paid?—As to salmon fishing, practically nil, but it is one of the best known trout streams in Scotland.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

4468. Might you not have asked the owner of the trout fishing a good deal more than 5s. a year?—You mean that I might have screwed more out of him?

4469. Certainly?—Yes; I think it is possible it might have been done. As it was, I received up to 60 years' purchase for the 5s. rents. I daresay; it did not occur to me at the time. I thought those fisheries were valueless to us, and that it was best to get them off the rental.

Chairman.

4470. It is something like a right of way; a man may have a nominal right of way over an estate which has no value in itself, but which it may be worth the proprietors' while to give a good deal of money to get rid of?—That is so.

4471. I do not quite gather how you make out this case; but, as I understand, the real value of this salmon fishing was not so much the salmon that were caught; but that if the proprietor of the trout stream obtained the exclusive right of salmon fishing he practically protected and walled round his own other fishing rights?—He was better able to protect his other fishing rights.

4472. I suppose he could exclude everybody then, could he not?—He could apply for an interdict against fishing of any sort.

4473. Then comes the practical point. That being of great value to him as the owner of the trout fishing, did you get enough for it?—A good deal of that water I may explain, as I think I did before, was, by the good nature of the proprietors, and is now open for trout fishing. Two out of five lessees refused to give the price I asked.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4474. How are the salmon fishings managed?—Almost directly from the Office of Woods, except as to the actual receipt of the rents. We manage them by correspondence and by advertisement; and that is one of the reasons why, not having any particular agent to visit the salmon fisheries, we like to deal with the *ex adverso* proprietor, so that he may control the fishing, and see that there is no mischief done, and so on. We have not anybody connected with the office that we can send to inspect these fisheries. I do what I can myself in that way, but we have no special officer that we can send, nor do we think it necessary to have one.

4475. You have no officer at all to inspect the salmon fisheries?—If there were any special case

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we would employ some local man who was an expert in such matters.

4476. How are the mines managed, that is almost the only other separate item?—They are practically managed by Sir Warrington Smyth. There are only two working mines (under-sea mines) at the present moment, and they are managed by Sir Warrington Smyth in the same way that he manages mines all over the country for us.

4477. Then to turn for a moment to the cost of management, I see you have an abstract of the income account in your Annual Report; is not that so, the one that is before the Committee of 1888?—Yes, of the general income account there is.

4478. And in the third column, for Scotland, the income comes to 23,762 l.?—Yes, for the year ending 31st March 1888.

4479. Turning to the other side of the account you have in the third column again the amount of charges, 3,235 l.?—Yes.

4480. And that includes (the first item) salaries and percentages of receivers and stewards of manors?—Yes.

4481. Then there is incidental expenses, surveys, plans, repairs repayment of capital, property tax, rates, and taxes. Does that include the whole charge against the income of the Scotch estates?—Everything except legal expenses.

4482. Why are legal expenses not entered?—Because they are paid out of vote. There are none of those sums entered in our Parliamentary account that are paid out of vote. All these payments are out of the revenue. The law expenses in Scotland are paid out of what is termed, I think, "The law expenses for Scotland Vote." Our solicitor in Edinburgh is paid by bills of costs, which are examined in the Office of Woods and sent on to the Treasury for approval and payment.

4483. But when in the Annual Report you are giving a view of the income of the Scotch estate of 23,700 l., and you state the charge of management is 3,200 l., does it not give a misleading impression not to include the law charges?—It does not mislead any more than is the case, for instance, with England, where the law expenses are paid out of vote. Under our Acts we have to present to Parliament all that we pay out of revenue, and that is entered here.

Chairman.

4484. Had not you better answer that in another way, that your law expenses do not include anything for the cost of management, or the cost of receipt of rents, it is simply actual litigation?—Actual litigation, and legal advice.

4485. I want to see that it is the same for Scotland as for England; therefore it forms no part of the cost of management?—No part of the cost of management.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4486. Is it all actual litigation?—I beg your pardon, conveyancing; it includes conveyancing.

Chairman.

4487. What do you mean by "conveyancing," you have only bought one property of 400 l.?—

Chairman—continued.

We buy and sell; and very frequently we to consult the solicitor in Edinburgh.

4488. But the misleading part of this is this: as this stands the cost of management in Scotland of a rent-roll of something 24,000 l. is 3,300 l.?—Yes.

4489. Of course on the face of it that is high percentage, but that 3,300 l. includes of taxes?—Yes; I have explained that.

4490. I know you have explained it before. I object to this mode of presenting accounts. It is no charge of management. call it "property tax allowed Crown tax 638 l.;" through them, you pay your property tax the same as anybody else. Then your rates and taxes on Crown property are 900 l. is 1,550 l. for rates and taxes. Then come charges, stipends, and allowances" (which I suppose are obligations that you cannot get rid of), another 400 l.; so that, practically nominal 3,361 l. expenditure for management really not more than 1,061 l.?—No; that item would include—

4491. I am not talking of what it includes but first of all your 3,361 l. includes 1,500 l. rates and taxes and 400 l. for fixed charges which have nothing whatever to do with management?—Yes, that is so.

4492. They are charges on the property?—Yes.

4493. Therefore the real cost of your property this rental of 23,000 l. a year is something about 1,200 l. a year?—Yes.

4494. About 5 per cent.?—Yes.

4495. That is what I want to have cleared up on the notes; that you are not paying 3 per cent. a year for getting 23,000 l.; but only 1,200 l. I am much obliged to you.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4496. I suppose it is true that although law charges cannot be technically described as "costs of management," they do occur every year; is not that so?—Yes, that is so.

4497. And they are paid out of this income of 23,000 l.?—No, they are paid out of vote. a general charge.

4498. Still they must be set against the income, I suppose. How much were they, for instance, in the last year, 1888; how much of the solicitor's bill of costs amount to?—£.

Mr. Jackson.

4499. Is that an average year?—That is before it was 2,365 l.; and the year before that 597 l.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4500. What is the average for the last 10 years?—The average of 12½ years is 1,147 l.

4501. Have you prepared a statement of the last 10 years showing that?—I have (handing the same).

Chairman.

4502. Will you tell us why in England you pay your legal adviser a salary, and have lawyer's bills; why do not you do the same thing in Scotland?—That was the custom in Scotland.

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Chairman—continued.

Scotland, and it was altered, I believe, as being thought to be to the advantage of the Office of Woods.

4503. I do not see how it is to the advantage of the Office of Woods if you are spending an average of 1,200*l.* a year in Scotland. Of course you would not give the same salary in Scotland as in England; you would not give the same salary for managing 23,000*l.* worth of property as you would give for managing property representing half-a-million?—These law expenses, I may state to begin with, include payments to counsel and costs recovered against the Crown. It so happens that in the last two years we have had two very heavy cases where the Crown was obliged to defend, and where costs were given against us.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4504. The law business in England, I believe, includes both salaries and fees to counsel; and that appears on your Report at page 169?—Yes, in England.

4505. But no part of the same expenditure in Scotland appears in your Annual Report at all; there is no notice taken in your Annual Report of that?—No, there is not.

4506. The amount in the Estimates for the year ending 31st March 1890 for the Office of Woods you put at 1,250*l.* You ask for 1,250*l.* for the next year; the same gentleman has bills against other departments, has he not?—Yes, Mr. Beith acts for other departments.

4507. £. 1,000 is put down for other departments; that makes 2,250*l.* as the estimate for that following year. The estimate for last year was 1,500*l.*; is that so. I am reading from page 267 of the Estimates for the year ending 31st March 1890. The net probable amount required is 2,050*l.*, and the net probable amount required last year was 1,500*l.*, and 250*l.* for estimated costs and expenses payable by the Commissioners of Woods; but then a Supplementary Estimate was afterwards required of 550*l.* You will remember that, I daresay?—I remember there being a Supplementary Estimate.

4508. That was an exceptional year, was it not?—No doubt, a very exceptional year. I do not think it was altogether for the Office of Woods. I am certain it was not; however, a large portion of it was.

4509. I want to call your attention to this item in the Estimates. You deduct from the gross probable amount, less probable amount of costs to be recovered within the year, 200*l.*?—Yes.

4510. But then, on the other side of the account, you put costs and expenses. This is also an estimate, payable by the Commissioner of Woods for unsuccessful actions, 250*l.*; you notice that?—Yes, I see it.

4511. Does not that look as if you expected to have more actions than you gain; because you expect to recover 200*l.*, and you expect to pay 250*l.*?—For that particular year; but we must have known what the position was. We must have known that certain expenses were to be met.

4512. The same figure appears for last year 0.103.

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

and the year to come; it is an estimate for the future year?—I see that it occurs twice. I do not know whether it has been running on at that figure or not, or what the actual expenditure has been. I have got one of Mr. Beith's accounts for the quarter ending September 1887. In that quarter his payment out of pocket (his outlay) was 1,009*l.*: his charge was 83*l.*

4513. That 1,009*l.* is applicable to litigation, I suppose?—No doubt; it arises from two particular cases; the one a teind case (what we know as the Elgin case), and it was partly due to what is known as the Torran case, both of which were actions that the Crown had to defend.

4514. Does the large amount of those bills, which seems almost to equal the whole of the cost of management, if you deduct taxes, arise from litigation to a large extent?—Yes, it does.

4515. And does the necessity for that litigation arise from the nature of the property?—Most distinctly so.

4516. Teinds and feu duties?—Yes. I do not think you could well conceive two properties which would be more likely to lead to litigation.

4517. Does that make it extremely urgent to dispose of that property?—That is one of my reasons for saying that I would be glad to see those properties sold.

Chairman.

4518. What is the nature of the litigation?—The first action related to some teinds of lands in the parish of Elgin. These teinds belonged to the Crown, and in the state of teinds prepared by the common agent (an officer appointed for the heritors) they were treated as unvalued, and were stated at the usual rate of one-fifth of the present rental. The landowner objected to this, and contended that they were included in an old valuation of the teinds of a barony, and that consequently no separate teind whatever should be charged against him for the lands in question, and he moved the Teind Court to direct the common agent to alter his state. As the old valuation described the barony as being wholly situated in the adjoining parish, it seemed improper to attempt to extend it to teinds in the parish of Elgin, and the proceedings by the landowner were therefore resisted by Crown counsel. Certain issues of fact were raised on behalf of the landowner, which resulted in the judge directing that local evidence should be taken; and this led to an expenditure which was quite unexpected. The decision of the judge was in favour of the landowner, with costs, and Crown counsel did not think it expedient to appeal.

4519. Then you were wrong all the way through?—We were acting on the advice of Crown counsel.

4520. The Crown counsel did not even think it necessary to appeal?—Not after the disclosures that took place during the action.

4521. Tell us how much that litigation cost?—It is a very large sum.

4522. Is that the 1,600*l.* Can you tell us what the amount of teind was that was in dispute?

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Chairman—continued.

pute?—No, I do not think I can answer that question.

4523. As a test case, I should like to know what the amount was in dispute, and what it cost to dispute it, in the case in which you were ultimately beaten?—It was a case where the Crown was defendant, and where the law officers of the Crown advised us that we must defend.

4524. Apparently the Crown were defending an action that they ought not to have defended, according to the decision of the Court?—Not if we had known what we know now. It had to be hunted out with a very great deal of trouble.

Mr. Jackson.

4525. When did this case occur?—It must have occurred in the year 1887, or 1886-87 probably.

4526. Do you mean to say that the advice given by the law officers was given by the law officers of 1886-7; when did the case arise?—Either in 1886 or 1887; not before then.

Chairman.

4527. I did not quite understand you that it was a case that went to the law officers; you say that "counsel" advised?—I cannot undertake a case of the kind without the consent of the Lord Advocate. The Lord Advocate, the Solicitor General, and our standing junior counsel are always consulted in a case of that kind.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4528. In connection with this point, I just want an explanation of the way in which the accounts are stated; look at Paper 9, where we have receipts and expenditure of the Land Revenues; I observe there is one of those large litigations that is specially mentioned in that account; if you look at the last column but one on page 3, you find the sum of 3,409*l.* entered there, and in a note "B." it says that that includes the costs of the Lord Advocate *v.* Guthrie, 1,210*l.*; now why is it that in that one instance it is entered as a miscellaneous payment, and that similar charges for litigation do not appear to be entered in this?—That was in 1865. I cannot explain why it was so entered.

4529. The litigation expenses do not appear, I think, in the later entries on this account?—No, they do not.

4530. They do not appear at all, in either one way or the other, in any column?—No; they do not.

4531. You have furnished the Committee with Paper No. 7, as to the sales of estates; it is classed under "Sales of Estates," "Sales of Feu Duties," "Sales of Teinds," "Miscellaneous;" from 1850 down to the present time property representing 177,000*l.* has been sold?—Yes, that is so.

4532. That is partly supplemented by a later Return furnished to the House of Commons on the 15th of June 1889; that gives the sales from 1845?—Yes, that is so. I can tell you back to 1833.

4533. Will you give the whole amount from 1833, if you please?—The sales between 1833 and 1849 were: estates, 22,929*l.*; feu duties,

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

149*l.* Total up to 1849, 23,078*l.*, which be added to the figures you have just read.

4534. That just makes it as nearly as 200,000*l.*?—£. 200,000.

4535. I know it can only be a rough estimate, but would you try and give a rough estimate of the capital value of the hereditary property of Scotland at the present date. The 23,000*l.*?—Yes. I should be very sorry to give any crude estimate go on the Notes. I will discuss with you the different subjects.

4536. Very well, take the farms?—The value of the farms, &c. is 2,274*l.*

4537. How many years' purchase would you say?—I have explained to the Committee that they are admirably equipped farms, in a condition which will require no expenditure except ordinary repairs for some years. On that account I should say it would be a disaster to sell those farms under 30 years' purchase.

4538. My present object is to get on with a rough estimate. I wish to compare the value of the land sold with the amount which is in hand. It would be pretty near the mark if I said that the purchase on the 23,000*l.*; you say that it would be very much less?—The 11,200*l.* is the largest item, and that ought to bring in a large purchase. We would not sell under the value of 248,000*l.* The case is very difficult to put. Under the Compensation Act the casualty is limited to 2½ years' purchase and a year and a-half in others. You would get the 555*l.* down at, say, 2 years' purchase. The teinds would vary up to 12 years' purchase; some of them are worth more than 12 years' purchase. As I explained before, each parcel of land has to be considered.

4539-40. I think I must not ask you to go into detail on this?—I would rather not. I do not know what the question was. Another item might be estimated; the value of salmon fishing.

4541. I want to ask you if you cannot give a rough estimate?—It would be so rough a estimate that I should hardly like it to go upon the Notes.

4542. Would it be safe to say then that more than one-third of the hereditary revenue of the Crown have been sold since 1833 in Scotland?—That is obliging me to make a rough estimate.

4543. Can you not say that?—Not more than as a third I think.

4544. Are you sure of that?—I should not say more than as a third.

Chairman.

4545. I do not quite understand how you would say a third, when in 1850 the rental of the hereditary property in Scotland was about 16,000*l.* a year, and now it is about 24,000*l.*, is it not. During that time we have sold 177,000*l.* worth of property; if that property would now have been worth as much as it is now, like 30,000*l.* a year invested in Scotland, would it not be a third?—Yes.

4546. As I understand, the 177,000*l.* has been invested in London?—I do not say London. It has gone into our common fund.

4547. It has gone into the common fund of Scotland, before Scotland gets no benefit from the interest?

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[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

at 177,000 *l.* I mean the Scotch revenue does not?—The Scotch revenue does not.

4548. Excepting the income upon what you have sold, your income in Scotland is 8,000 *l.* more than it was before you began to sell?—That is so.

4549. Then you can hardly say you have sold out a third?—No; taking it in that way. What I understood Mr. Crawford to mean was: there being 200,000 *l.* that you have sold, at that do you estimate that which remains. What remains is more than double to my mind; do not want to go more closely into it than that. The capital value, according to any calculation that I have been able to make, is more than double the amount of that sold, a good deal more. Therefore we have not sold a third.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4550. What I meant was a third of what remains; but I quite see your point. At all events 200,000 *l.* worth of capital has been sold in Scotland. What purchases have been made in Scotland?—Very little property indeed has been purchased in Scotland since 1833. £. 430 only since 1850. In the earlier days there were many purchases made. Up to 1849 a sum of £. 5,764 was spent in getting rid of charges on the revenue, one large item being the keeper of the flybook. £. 30,674 was paid to get rid of the charge upon revenue, freeing the revenue of Scotland to that extent. Since then the purchases have only amounted to 430 *l.*

4551. So that you may regard that 30,000 *l.* as an investment in Scotland?—Distinctly, being the Scotch revenues from charges.

4552. Where does that appear upon the accounts?—It was before 1849, so that I do not know. We examined the old Parliamentary accounts to get at these figures.

4553. Between 1850 and 1888 you have sold 7,000 *l.* worth of property?—Yes.

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

4554. And you have only bought 430 *l.* worth?—That is a fact.

4555. Accordingly that land revenue which existed in Scotland, whatever the precise proportion may be, is a very large proportion indeed of the land revenues of Scotland. It is now translated into building rents in London, is not it?—I do not say into building rents in London. Those are recent purchases, and the sales have been going on for a long time. The money has been no doubt invested in England. It now forms part of the English revenue; that will be the better way to put it. The sales in Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, not the Isle of Man, have been largely in excess of the purchases.

Chairman.

4556. What it practically comes to is this, is it not: your revenue prior to 1850, or at 1850, was 16,000 *l.* a year?—Yes.

4557. Since then you have sold 178,000 *l.* worth of property?—That is so.

4558. Exclusive of the income of that 178,000 *l.*, your revenue is now 24,000 *l.* a year?—That is so.

4559. And if you had the interest at 3 per cent. on that 178,000 *l.* in round figures; say, between 5,000 *l.* and 6,000 *l.*; the real revenue of the whole of the Scotch property, and of the Scotch property reduced, would be 30,000 *l.* a year?—About that.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4560. But the Scotch property which has been withdrawn from Scotland is not ear-marked in any way, is it?—No, it is not. We have not run away with the property. The land remains to bear its charges, and so on; and Scotland has got rid of a non-resident proprietor, to that extent.

Friday, 26th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Donald Crawford.
Mr. Stormonth Darling.
Sir Henry Fletcher.
Mr. Henry H. Fowler.

Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Samuelson.
Mr. Shaw Stewart.
Mr. Arthur Williams.

MR. HENRY H. FOWLER, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. SPENCER W. GORE, again called in ; and further Examined.

Chairman.

4561. I BELIEVE you want to make a correction in your evidence ; what is the particular point you wish to correct?—I wish to correct my replies to Questions 3415, 3416, and 3417.

4562. At Question 3415 I asked you whether you made any charge for preliminary surveys and reports in connection with the drainage works carried out at Sunk Island. and you answered, "No ; I had no charge for that"?—Yes ; I find that I did have some charges in connection with that particular drainage scheme.

4563. What were the charges?—The charges altogether amounted to 25 guineas, spread over

Chairman—continued.

a period of three years. The total out 5,320 l.

4564. You mean on the "open drain" the open drain. My charges were for apportioning with the tenants in respect to the land they occupied (the drain occupied 16 acres), re-apportioning the rents, and finally certifying that the drain had been properly executed altogether.

4565. That is a charge, then, you made to the Commissioners, which the Commission after examination passed?—Yes.

4566. Have you anything else to say?—Nothing further.

Colonel Sir ROBERT NIGEL FITZHARDINGE KINGSCOTE, K.C.B., again called in and further Examined.

Chairman.

4567. I THINK you want to say something with reference to Mr. Hobbis' evidence, do you not?—I should like to refer to the evidence given by him in reply to Question 3784. I would state that the delay in completing the valuations to which he refers was not attributable to my Department. The Crown valuer, who also acted for Edelsten, was appointed on the 5th October 1888, and his action was in no way impeded by instructions, or want of instructions, from me or the Crown Receiver. The valuers could not agree, and it was necessary to call in an umpire. As regards Mr. Hobbis' statement, in reply to Questions 3832 and 3833, in reference to Mr. Belcher's trustees, I would explain that the farm (Potter's-hill) which they held was taken into hand a year before the lease expired on the urgent request of the acting trustee, who had not the funds to carry it on properly, and, under the arrangement made between the Crown and the trustees under which the farm was surrendered to the Crown, all dilapidations and defects of cultivation were to be paid for by the trustees, the Crown paying them for certain acts of husbandry, and hay, and straw left, &c. The dilapidations to buildings and defects of cultivation were assessed together at about 177 l. The lessees claimed, as having been erected by the lessee, certain sheds, &c.,

Chairman—continued.

which were however specifically included in the lease granted 25 years previous to which a great part of the claim for dilapidations related. The trustee contended that these buildings had been erected before the date of the lessee's entry and the grant of the lease. I was informed that the buildings were of slight value, and as the deceased tenant's representatives were left in straitened circumstances, I, with the Treasury authority, apportioned the whole of the Crown claim to the lessee. I made, with the like authority, a further apportionment to the widow of the deceased tenant, in return to the widow of the deceased tenant, of about 323 l. in respect of past adverse possession. The gratuities were made to her on the death of the acting trustee, as it was understood that she was entitled to receive any profit which might have resulted from carrying on the farm, and there is one more subject. I should like to refer to my reply in reply to Question 1815 and 1910 that I mentioned I was then endeavouring to sell the lying farm in Essex. I should like to say that as a result of that sale. The farm contained 234½ acres, and is situate in Essex about 1½ miles from Benfleet Station. It escheated to the Crown some few years ago, and was then subject to a tithe-rent charge commuted at 72 l. per annum to land tax amounting to 67 l.

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6*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* per annum, and to a fee-farm rent of 2*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* per annum. The tithe-rent charge and land tax were paid by the tenant who took the farm for seven years from Michaelmas 1882 at 10*l.* for the first year, 60*l.* per annum for the next three years, and 100*l.* per annum afterwards. He expressed his determination to leave at Michaelmas next; and, as the buildings were old, some draining also being wanted, and there seemed no prospect of obtaining a new tenant, I determined to sell the farm if I could. It was sold at auction for 2,250*l.*, being at the rate of about 9*l.* 10*s.* per acre. But as showing that the price obtained is not peculiarly low just now, I may refer to the Land Agent's Record for the 20th instant, in which reference is made to the sale of other farms in

Chairman—continued.

Essex. From that paper it will be seen that two farms in the parish of Felstead, containing 361 acres and 212 acres respectively, cost, in 1867, to buy about 30*l.* per acre. They were offered for sale a month ago, and the biddings did not quite reach 10*l.* per acre, and are now to be put up again at an upset price of 10*l.* per acre. Another farm of 39 acres, with house and buildings, was sold in 1870 for 1,200*l.*, and recently for 700*l.* Another farm, at Good Easter, of 45½ acres, which had been sold in 1869 for 2,210*l.*, was recently sold for 380*l.* In the face of these facts it would not, in my opinion, be expedient at the present time, if tenants can be kept on reasonable terms, to embark in any extended sales of the Crown's outlying farms.

Mr. GEORGE CULLEY, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4568. ON Tuesday at the close of your examination you gave the Committee some information about the amount of Crown property in Scotland which had been sold, and consequently had been locally withdrawn from Scotland?—Yes.

4569. Are you aware that some questions have been recently asked in the House of Commons touching upon that point in special places. For instance, with regard to Orkney, are you aware that some questions have been asked?—Yes; I remember a question being put, and sent to us.

4570. By the Member for Orkney?—I think it was by the Member for Orkney, Mr. Lyell.

4571. Has your attention been called to a return relating to Orkney on that subject, dated the 29th June 1852, "Crown Estate (Orkney)"?—Yes, I have the return.

4572. That return appears to be a copy of a Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual issued in the year 1825, placing the management of the Crown estate in Orkney under the Barons of Exchequer in Scotland, and directing a part of the rental of the said estate to be applied to certain objects of local improvement in Orkney; and, further, a return showing the amounts, if any, so applied, with the nature of the improvements; also the net annual rental and other particulars relating to the estate; that is the nature of the return, is it not?—That is the nature of the return.

4573. The Crown estate in Orkney devolved upon the Crown upon the abolition of episcopacy in place of the Bishop of Orkney; it is a bishopric estate, is it not?—That is so.

4574. It appears from this return, does it not, that the Crown was in the habit of granting leases of this estate to subjects, and that in 1775 the Crown estate in Orkney had been leased to Lord Dundas at the rent of 50*l.* a year?—That is so.

4575. Then in 1825 the Crown resolved to resume possession of the estate; is that so?—That is so.

4576. And the first part of this return is the Warrant of the Treasury transferring the estate 0.103.

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

to the Barons of Exchequer who had the management of the rest of the Crown estate in Scotland, and giving them instructions what to do with it is; that so?—That is so.

4577. Do you observe on the second page of the return that this forms part of the instructions which were given to the Barons of the Exchequer: "We further empower you to expend such part of the yearly rents and revenues of the said bishopric, after payment of the legal deductions therefrom on such improvements for the amelioration of the said property, and of the county of Orkney, by assisting in making roads, building bridges, forming small harbours, and erecting piers, and by the establishment of fishing villages and schools on our lands." You observe that passage?—I observe it.

4578. Then the next part of the return asked for is the amounts, if any, so applied, with the nature of the improvements; that is so, is it not?—Yes, that is given in the return.

4579. That was in 1825. The whole of the Crown estates, including the Crown estate in Orkney, was transferred, as you have told us, to the Woods and Forests Department in 1833; is not that so?—Yes, that is so.

4580. The Commissioners under this return say, in substance, that after the estate was transferred to them they were bound by the statute of 10 Geo. 4, and that after paying expenses they were bound to pay the balance into the Consolidated Fund; is not that so?—That is so.

4581. And, accordingly, it was not in their power to spend money on such objects as "making roads, building bridges, forming small harbours and erecting piers, and by the establishment of fishing villages and schools"?—Unless such expenditure would add to the revenue; it would be treated simply as a question of revenue.

4582. Then in the first place, subsequent to the transference of the bishopric property in 1833 to your Department, does it appear from this return or otherwise, that anything considerable in that direction has ever been done?—This return gives considerable expenditure in a few

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years following the transfer of the charge of the property to the Office of Woods in improvement, but no doubt those were improvements, as I have said, for considerations of revenue.

4582. Quite so; and they are headed in the column as "Improvements on Crown lands in buildings, repairs, drainage, planting, and fences"?—Yes, that is so.

4584. Therefore that is a somewhat different class of improvements to those authorised by the Treasury Warrant, such as fishing villages, piers, or schools. There is nothing of that kind, is there?—The improvements carried out by the Office of Woods, as I say, were in consideration of increased revenue and improvement of the property; the expenditure was not made on any public ground.

4585. No; you consider that you had no power to do so, and the Commissioners at that time considered that they had no power to do so?—I consider so.

4586. And, in point of fact, the improvements are not of the same classes as those mentioned in the Treasury Warrant?—No.

4587. Then has a considerable portion of this property been subsequently sold?—There only remains of the property in the shape of land or houses one fort, which is at present let to the Ordnance Board. That one fort is on the Walls Island; "the Long Hope," I think, is the name of the fort. That is all that remains of the landed property. Beyond that the duties are the only property that remains.

4588. The amount of sales up to the year 1852 are stated on page 8 of that return, I think; between 1833 and 1852 there seems to have been sold between 11,000 *l.* and 12,000 *l.* worth of property?—Yes; according to that return. From the year 1846 to the year 1879 the total amount received from sales in Orkney was 50,466 *l.*; but that includes sales of feu duties as well as sales of land; but it is chiefly composed of sales of land.

4589. Accordingly, even if you had the power to apply the revenues of the Orkney estate to these local purposes, to the extent of 50,000 *l.* of capital, it is no longer there?—It is no longer there.

4590. What does the Orkney estate now consist of?—Entirely of unimprovable rents, except that fort which I mentioned, for which we get a rent of 28 *l.* 10 *s.* a year.

4591. How much do the unimprovable rents amount to?—Last year I think they amounted to 624 *l.*, which was received by the Chamberlain of Orkney; and there is besides that a duty paid by Lord Zetland which is chiefly for Orkney, to the extent of 500 *l.* a year.

4592. Who receives that?—The Receiver in Edinburgh.

4593. What do you say is the amount received by the Chamberlain of Orkney?—Last year it was 624 *l.* for unimprovable rents.

4594. What is the salary of the Chamberlain of Orkney?—£. 120.

4595. Does not that appear to be a very high salary for that duty?—It is a high percentage. The duties are in kind, and have to be converted, and in some cases they are actually paid in kind, and the sale has to be carried out by the Chamberlain.

Chairman.

4596. Do you mean that the duties are paid in oats?—In meal or malt, oil or butter.

4597. And then the Chamberlain has to realise that?—That is so as to a certain number of the duties. We have, of course, endeavoured as far as we could to have them converted and paid in money.

4598. Commuted you mean?—Yes, according to fiars prices; there are still some of them in kind. That is one of the reasons why salary is an unusual percentage upon the receipts.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4599. What per-centage would that salary represent?—About 18 per cent. The total sum collected last year by Mr. Barnett would be about 665 *l.*

4600. Can you say about what proportion of the 624 *l.* is paid in that inconvenient way?—There is only a small portion now paid in kind. It has been gradually changed. More than 20 *l.*, I should say, has to be converted now; for the last year it was under 20 *l.* think.

4601. Do not you think if he has only got to collect in that way that 18 per cent. is an exceedingly high per centage for that gentleman to receive?—No doubt it is a high per cent. The position is very remote; the duties are so difficult to perform, and there are so many islands to visit.

4602. When was the Chamberlain of Orkney put upon a salary do you know?—The previous Chamberlain had 150 *l.*; and until 1858 he had also an allowance of 50 *l.* per annum for a clerk. A good many sales have taken place since, and the salary has been reduced to 120 *l.*

4603. I see by the return of 1855 that was referred to before, that at that time the Chamberlain of Orkney was the only officer who was paid a salary; the others were all paid a commission of 5 per cent.?—That is so.

4604. I may as well ask on this point: considering that so much of the property has been sold, are you satisfied that the salary system is in all cases the most economical still?—No, I am not satisfied.

4605. In 1855, and for a long time prior to that, apparently the Commission was 5 per cent. that is as it appears from this return?—In Orkney, or for the whole of Scotland do you mean?

4606. For all the other places except Orkney?—Yes.

4607. I presume that with the increased facilities of communication you would probably for collecting rents not now be disposed to take so high a per-centage as 5 per cent.?—It depends upon the character of the rents. For small rents such as feu duties, teinds, and so on, we may be compelled to give 5 per cent. or more, but not for collecting the rents of farms, for example.

4608. Take the largest item of your management apart from law expenses; that is the salary of the Receiver and his clerks, is it not?—Yes.

4609. You told us that he made his collections by correspondence from Edinburgh, did you not?—Yes.

4610. Would you consider that 5 per cent. commission

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commission was too high for him, supposing you were putting him back to a commission?—The properties that he collects rents from are lands, salmon fishings, feu duties, teinds. I daresay, putting them altogether, 5 per cent. would be an ample payment; perhaps too high a payment.

4611. Considering that in England you get your revenues collected very often at 4 per cent., and sometimes at as low as 2 and 2½ per cent.?—That is for compact properties.

4612. Do not you think 5 per cent. very high for the Receiver living in Edinburgh?—I was thinking over the different features of the collection. Nearly half of that revenue comes from feu duties or casualties, and more than one-half, at all events, from rents issuing out of other people's property, about which he has a great deal of correspondence. For those I would not be disposed to say that the 5 per cent. was too high; but I think that it would be too high; in the case of salmon fishing for example. I think it is distinctly a higher per-centage than it is necessary to pay for the 6,000 *l.* a year we receive for salmon fishings; probably 3 per cent. would be sufficient. The Receiver, with regard to our farms in Scotland, does very little of the land agent's duty. He acts merely as receiver of rents, and therefore, of course, as merely receiver of rents, the 5 per cent. would be very high; it might be 2½.

4613. I do not want to go much further into detail on that; but have you made any calculation as to what a fair per-centage would be, compared with the present receipts of the Receiver?—No, I have not. Formerly the Receiver was paid by a poundage. That was altered, I think, in 1880 upon the appointment of the late Mr. Keir. The Treasury then altered the per-centage into a salary of 600 *l.* a year, with an allowance of 350 *l.* for clerks. Mr. Keir was not appointed to a pension on the terms of his appointment. The present Receiver was appointed in 1886. Being already a public servant in the Registrar's office, he is so entitled, and has the same salary as was fixed in 1880 for Mr. Keir.

Chairman.

4614. In fact, the Scotch revenue is received by a salaried officer who is on the Civil Service Establishment?—That is so.

4615. Then the door is closed so far as he is concerned?—Yes. I find on examining the figures that the salaries of the Receiver in Edinburgh and his clerks only amount to 4½ per cent. on his collections, while for the whole property in Scotland the expenses of collection came to 4¾ per cent. on the revenue of 1888.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4616. Before passing from the withdrawal of capital from Scotland, if complaint were made by such places as Orkney that they lose the benefit of local revenues which were intended for them under the Treasury Warrant of 1825, might it not be said, on the other hand, that Scotland generally was possibly a gainer by the arrangement?—I think every district is a gainer by obtaining a resident instead of a non-resident landowner.

4617. But, apart from that, the proportion of 0.103.

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

the revenue contributed by Scotland is considerably smaller in proportion to the population?—I am afraid I have not worked that out.

4618. If that were so, that the proportional contribution of Scotland was considerably less than that of England, and if at the same time it could be shown that Scotland got an equal proportionate share in the Consolidated Fund, then Scotland would be the gainer by the whole thing being put into one general fund?—No doubt.

4619. I want to ask one or two questions again about salmon fishing, with reference to evidence that has been tendered to the Committee since you were examined last; do the salmon fishings on the coast of Haddington and Berwick belong in large part to the Crown?—They do.

4620. Can you state what the amounts are from the recent Return that we have before us of the 5th July 1889?—Those counties run into each other. One fishery extends into both counties. The whole rental from those two counties is 710 *l.*

4621. There appear to be six tenancies (six parcels)?—There is one large letting of 500 *l.* a year.

4622. Who are the tenants of those fishings?—The principal tenant is Mr. Johnson, of Montrose.

4623. He pays the 500 *l.*?—He pays the 500 *l.*

4624. He is a great fish dealer, is not he, or fish merchant?—He is a great salmon fisher. He has also a great interest in the herring fishery, I think, and is a member of the Fishery Board of Scotland.

4625. Can you say who the other tenants are?—The Duke of Roxburgh is one.

4626. Who is the tenant of the fishing for which 125 *l.* a year is paid?—Mr. Brownlee.

4627. Where does he live; where does he come from; is he a resident there?—I do not know that he is.

4628. I think you told us previously with regard to salmon fishing you endeavoured to let them to the proprietors, even although that might be with the view of their letting them to somebody else; is not that so?—That is so. Wherever there is any difficulty, or any chance of a difficulty with regard to the use of the shore, we find it necessary to do so.

4629. But in the case of the two large tenants, the 500 *l.* and the 125 *l.*, you let direct, do you not?—In those cases the letting is direct to the fisher.

4630. And they are not resident in the neighbourhood?—I do not know as to Mr. Brownlee; Mr. Johnson certainly is not.

4631. Have any complaints reached you from the local fishermen in consequence of their having no share in the fishing industry there, that those tenants who are resident at a distance employ people who are not resident fishermen in the locality?—I do not know that that is so. No complaints have been sent direct to the Office of Woods, and I have never heard that particular feature made a question of complaint at all. I did not know that the persons employed were not, to a great extent, natives.

4632. When you say that you have never heard that particular feature made a subject of complaint,

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complaint, what do you mean?—I mean as to the non-employment of natives.

4633. What have you heard made the subject of complaint?—I only judge from what I see in newspapers that circulate in that district; the white fisherman seem to think it very hard that they cannot fish for salmon as they please, with drift nets for example, and as near as they please to go to the foreshore fishery; I see also from time to time from newspapers circulating in that neighbourhood that fishermen are prosecuted for fishing for salmon in the sea, even in the close time for salmon.

4634. You are aware that there has been some amount of discontent on the subject among the fishermen, and complaint against the present system?—I know that the fishermen think that they are hardly used because they cannot fish as they please for salmon in the sea.

4635. But you were not aware that complaint is made that they do not even get employment from the lessees of the fishings?—I never heard that complaint until you mentioned it.

4636. I suppose if a question of that kind were officially brought to the notice of the Department, as large proprietors of salmon fishings, that, just as a resident proprietor would act, you would think it proper to consider and investigate the question; is not that so?—I should be very unwilling to interfere with the operations of our tacks men, who do their best with regard to a very important industry; these men who are not natives who are employed, I should imagine are labourers skilled in that particular work.

4637. You understand that they are labourers skilled in that particular work?—I do not “understand” that they are; but I say I have no doubt that that is the case; it would apply much more to Mr. Johnson than to anyone else.

4638. The nets used are fixed nets, I believe?—The nets used by our tacksmen are fixed nets.

4639. You say the fishermen want to have the power to use drift nets; those are not fixed nets, are they?—No, they are not fixed nets.

4640. Has any application been made to the Department to give licenses, or to devise any system by which the local fishermen should have the power of fishing with drift nets?—I do not know of any such application.

4641. There is just one other case I want to ask you about, a case on the Dee; are you aware of any complaints that have been made about the action of the Department in letting some fisheries in the parish of Birse on the River Dee, Aberdeenshire, on the ground that they were really the property of the public?—One of those things which occur unexpectedly, now and then, with regard to salmon fisheries, occurred (I think it was in 1886) about three years ago. Owing to some litigation which took place in Aberdeen, we found that, in all probability, the Crown had some right in a short fishing on the River Dee. Up to that time we knew nothing about it. During that litigation it appeared that the titles of two gentlemen, I think, who applied for an interdict against some other persons from fishing, were not perfect as to the right of fishing. As far as I remember the case, it turned out that they had not a complete charter of the fishing, but a

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

franchise to fish, a liberty to fish; and that being the case, the Crown still had not alienated whole right. I had no opportunity at the time myself, of investigating the thing upon the spot, and the course I took after hearing all that could be said by the solicitors of the parties opposed to each other was what I thought the safest on my part, and that was to grant a short lease to the persons who had the partial right until I could myself visit the place and make inquiry, or by some other way arrive at the real facts of the case. I may say one thing, at all events, incidentally, that is that there can be no public right. The only question, as between the public or this individual against whom the interdict was aimed, and the men who have the partial right, was, that he had no right whatever. They had a right to fish, but they were not in a position to stop his fishing. In the meantime, having a lease from me for a short time, until I could make more inquiry about the case, they were in a position to stop other persons from salmon fishing.

4642. Had the public been in the habit of fishing there before, do you know?—I think it was asserted during the course of that litigation that, at all events, certain individuals had claimed as a part of the public, a right to fish, and one of them had been in the habit of fishing for a long time; so it was alleged, I think.

Mr. Shaw Stewart.

4643. I want to ask you one question about Loch Morar. You spoke of another sale which was pending, and which has been pending for four or five years?—You mean of a fishing which is not at present a salmon fishing, but which will become so when the obstruction is removed. Is that the case that you are speaking of?

4644. Yes. You were asked if any complaints have been made, during this pending of the sale, against the proposed sale?—Not against that or no complaint whatever.

4645. Were complaints made against the Loch Morar sale while that was pending?—I think not.

4646. Not until after the sale was completed?—Not until after the sale; I think not. I am speaking from memory when I say, “I think not.”

4647. With regard to the partial obstruction below Loch Morar, and the total obstruction above it, both of which might be removed, they both belong to the same proprietor?—No, they do not. With respect to the lower one, the whole belongs on one side to Lord Lovat; the opposite side to Mrs. Nicholson. That is the case of the partial obstruction in the River Morar itself. The upper obstruction, I think, is divided between Mrs. Cameron Campbell and Colonel Macdonald; but I am not quite sure that it does not entirely belong to Mrs. Cameron Campbell.

4648. Then with regard to the King's Park, Stirling, the general policy of your department (in Scotland at any rate) has been to obtain revenue; but I suppose in the case of the King's Park, Stirling, you consider the amenity of the Park for the public, or you would consider it?

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Mr. Shaw Stewart—continued.

We have done so; to an extent which is perhaps some injury to our farm; but the public have claimed access and amenity for a long time, and we have certainly done nothing to abridge that. On the contrary there is more public enjoyment of the Park now than there was 10 years ago.

4649. I know it is very much used by the public; therefore, it would be very detrimental to the public interest for the Woods and Forests to sell that property, would it not?—I think it is distinctly in the public interest (meaning by “the public” the surroundings of Stirling) that the Woods and Forests should retain it.

4650. To those who have the enjoyment of it?—To those who have the enjoyment of it. For example, the Agricultural Show is always held there, and the people amuse themselves in the Park.

4651. I am aware that the up-keep of the Royal Palaces and old cathedrals in Scotland is in the department of the Board of Works?—Yes.

4652. Have they ever been under the control of the Woods and Forests Department?—When the two departments were one of course they were, and on the division of the two departments, the buildings, or at all events almost all of them, with the small pieces of land surrounding them, were left in charge of the Office of Works or were carried to the charge of the Office of Works; while the land, as land, and any feature that was likely to bring in a revenue was put in charge of the Office of Woods, one being looked upon as a spending, the other as a revenue department.

4653. I suppose you cannot give me any idea of what was spent on the up-keep of the Royal Palaces and cathedrals, during the time they were partially under the control of the Woods and Forests?—I could not.

4654. What I wish to arrive at is this: it has been said in Scotland that the up-keep of the Royal Palaces and cathedrals might be defrayed from the Bishop's teinds which are the Crown teinds, which amount to 2,700 *l.* odd a year, do not they?—Yes, about that.

4655. You could not give me any idea as to whether the up-keep of the palaces amounted to more than that; that is to say, whether Scotland would be a loser or a gainer by the change?—I am afraid I could not tell you that.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4656. Let me ask you one or two questions on the thorny subject of teinds; the teind in Scotland is a burden upon land; but it is an estate separate from land, is it not?—To the extent that it may be held by somebody who has no connection with the land; it may be held by a titular who has no connection with the land.

4657. By a titular or some other person?—Yes.

4658. The primary burden upon it is the payment of the stipend of the parish minister, is it not?—That is so.

4659. And that may be “augmented,” as it is called in Scotland, if the augmentation is claimed at intervals of 20 years?—That is so.

O.103.

Mr. Stormonth Darling—continued.

4660. So that the teinds in the hands of the Crown are always subject to diminution from that source?—They are always liable to diminution.

4661. When a minister applies for an augmentation there is what is called an “interim locality” dividing the burden among the proprietors of the lands, or among the owners of the teinds; and on that interim locality the stipend sometimes is collected for a number of years, is it not?—That is so.

4662. And at the end of that time there is an adjustment of the rights of the owners of teinds, leading in some cases to large repayments of money?—That is so.

4663. And during the existence or dependence of this interim locality the Crown do not, I understand, collect their surplus teinds at all?—As a rule, no.

4664. Do you say that that accounts for the large fluctuations in the annual returns from teinds?—Not altogether. The principal variation, I think, arises from repayments before the receipts come into our account. You are aware that there are old valuations of teinds?

4665. Yes?—In a case which occurred lately we shall have to repay, I think, about 1,000 *l.* for over-payment made by the subject to the Crown, the subject having, unknown to that particular subject, an old valuation which has been confirmed.

4666. That has only recently been discovered by him?—That has only recently been discovered. No fault, of course, was attachable to the Crown. We were collecting as upon unvalued land, whereas it had been valued, but the fact of valuation was not known.

4667. For the sake of clearness, perhaps I ought to ask you this: Teinds are either the subject of valuation, or where they are not, they consist of one-fifth of the annual produce of the land, do they not?—That is so.

4668. Or rather of the rent, to be precise?—No, not of the rent; of the agricultural value.

4669. Just so; of the agricultural rent?—Yes.

4670. Then where a man has been paying upon the one-fifth of the agricultural rent, if he discovers among his muniments a valuation, it may be a very old one, then that may have the effect of reducing his payment very largely?—Very largely.

4671. And therefore of throwing a corresponding burden upon the other owners of teinds?—That is so.

4672. It is in that way that you have to make these large repayments, is it not?—It is in that way that we have to make these large repayments.

4673. That is one cause of the fluctuation, and the other is what you have mentioned; the suspension of the collection during the dependence of the interim locality?—That is so.

4674. I see that you have sold teinds in some years to a large extent, but that of late the sales have fallen off almost to nothing?—To almost nothing.

4675. In some years there have been no sales; in the last year there were sales to the amount of nearly

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nearly

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Mr. CULLEY.

[Conti

Mr. Stormonth Darling—continued.

nearly 211/4.—The teinds themselves are becoming gradually exhausted.

4676. And you find less demand, do you, for purchase?—I think distinctly so, though I am a little surprised at it.

4677. They are not subjects which are saleable in the open market, I take it; I mean to “all and sundry”; but merely to the owners of the lands, are they?—I do not know of any case where the sale has not been to the owners of the lands affected.

4678. Then with regard to salmon fishings, as I understand, the policy of the department is to treat the salmon fishings as a purely commercial subject?—That is so.

4679. Your duty being, as you consider it, to make the most of the subject for the benefit of the general public?—Yes; the most that we safely can.

4680. That also is a separate estate distinct from the land?—Yes, that is so.

4681. You told us, I think, that the large increase in the value of the salmon fishings dates from a particular decision of the House of Lords?—The decision of the Gammell case in 1859.

4682. Since then there has been a very large progressive increase in the value, has there not?—That is so.

4683. Do you attribute that to improved salmon legislation, or what?—To improved practice; there had been very little development of the foreshore fisheries before that Act; since that Act the operations are very much better understood; in fact, the people interested in fisheries are improving, I may say every day, in the knowledge of the habits of the salmon, and how they can be caught by fixed engines from the foreshore.

4684. As a rule, have you now been able to let or sell nearly all the salmon fishings round the coast?—Much the greater part of them, at all events of those that have any value.

4685. Where they can be worked?—Yes; where they can be worked, and where there are salmon to be caught.

4686. With regard to the case which has been mentioned of Loch Morar, your position, as I understand it, is this: that you could not have sold those fishings to any but the proprietors of the surrounding shores of the loch; they would not have been of value to anybody else?—That is so; their value to anybody is small; the value to the proprietors, if I may say so of a small thing, is much greater than to anybody else; and one feature I referred to, the development of the breeding ground by reducing obstacles, could not have been carried out except by the proprietors.

4687. Then you do not conceive that by selling the fishings to these proprietors you have invested them with any other right than the right to take salmon?—That is my opinion.

Chairman.

4688. Have you sold many salmon fishings?—Yes, we have sold a considerable number; we have sold about 30,000 l. worth.

Chairman—continued.

4689. On what principle of valuation do you sell; what do you value a salmon fishing at?—I considered that we, by a course of letting public tender, had arrived at the full value of particular fishery, I should accept 20 years' purchase, or as much as I thought I could get.

4690. Have any of the salmon fishings in the land been alienated from the Crown without consideration?—Not since the revenue has been in charge of the Office of Woods. I dare say old times the Crown alienated salmon fishings without any consideration whatever; perhaps they did.

4691. Up to what date would that be;—I should think there would be no alienation without consideration for a period much longer back than that.

4692. Can you tell us what consideration was paid for the foreshore at the mouth of the river?—I cannot.

4693. That was an alienation of the right of fishing, was it not?—No doubt.

4694. I suppose it is now the most valuable fishing in Scotland, is it not?—I should think it is the most valuable foreshore fishing; I cannot myself personally know it.

4695. That was alienated before your time?—There is one alienation, I see, in 1735: the right of all the oyster beds or oyster scarps on the north side of the Firth of Forth, from the west point of the lands of Cuttlehill, called Moore, onwards to the west side of the head of Cruntisland, and extending to the middle of the Firth,” to “George, Earl of Morton,” “a pound Scots yearly, if asked.” Here is a reference in 1743: “The right of salmon and other fish in the Firth of Forth, opposite to her late Grace, the Countess of Grantoun, &c.,” to “Caroline, Countess of Keith,” at “6s. 8d. Scots yearly, if asked.” Possibly 6s. 8d. at that time was nearly the value of the salmon fishery alienated.

4696. We do not want to go back 150 years ago?—No.

4697. Since you have been responsible for the fishings, has been no alienation, except for the full value?—None, except for the full value.

Sir Joseph Bailey.

4698. In answer to a question a few minutes ago you said the only thing you parted with was the right to catch salmon?—That was in the case of Loch Morar.

4699. I presume you mean the exclusive right to catch salmon; is that so?—Yes, the exclusive right. In that case it is divided among the proprietors; the exclusive right goes to the four proprietors.

Chairman.

4700. You have, have you not, some statements to hand in?—Yes; one of them is an estimate of the area of lands in which the Crown possesses mineral rights in Wales; other shows the receipts and expenditure in respect of agricultural lands, &c., for the period ending 31st March 1888 and 1889. (The statements were handed in.)

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Mr. GEORGE HENRY LIST, called in; and Examined.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4701. I BELIEVE you are the Chief Constable of the counties of Haddington and Berwick?—
am.

4702. You have been chief constable of Haddington since 1840 and of Berwick since 1861; that so?—Yes.

4703. For a number of years you have had the supervision of the watching force on the lower portion of the River Tweed?—Since 1862.

4704. And the police have jurisdiction in enforcing the fishery laws, so that you are well acquainted with the subject?—They have.

4705. We have been informed that the salmon fisheries on the coast of those two counties belong mostly to the Crown?—They do.

4706. And that the largest of them, one let at 100*l.*, which seems to be considerably the greater part of the whole rent, is let to a gentleman who lives at a considerable distance from the locality?—That is let to Mr. Johnson. I remember that fishery being let at 5*l.*

4707. Are you aware of any complaints on the part of the resident fishermen, as to the persons who are employed in the fishery?—They complain that the fisheries are let to persons not resident in the locality, who bring men from the north of Scotland, as a rule, who are not fishermen, but labourers, because bag net and stake fishing requires but little skill; therefore the men are taken from the labouring class. I know that well, because I have employed very many of them as bailiffs in the close time.

4708. I presume there is a considerable fishing population on the coast there, who live by fishing?—By white fishing.

4709. And they complain, do they not, that they have no part or lot in, or means of making money out of, salmon fishing on their own coast?—They do.

4710. Has that led to a disturbance at times?—It has led to serious rioting at Bournemouth and Eyemouth. There has also been rioting at Berwick upon Tweed; but that is beyond your inquiry, I see.

4711. Yes; it is beyond, at least, what I am asking you about just now: it is not beyond the Committee's inquiry. Have you ever considered the question as to whether it would be possible to grant licenses to these fishermen?—I think it quite possible in Scotland, except in Berwickshire. Berwickshire is under the Tweed laws, and the Tweed laws prohibit drift nets; but the Scotch Acts do not prohibit drift nets. Therefore the Woods and Forests, whenever the present leases are out, could let the fishings on licenses, on them leases or whatever you like, to fishermen or to anybody, the same as they let them at now.

4712. If they were let on licenses to fishermen, suppose, it would not be possible at the same time to give the tacks-man or fish merchant also a right?—He would not take it if drift nets were to be used. There are many parts of the coast where they can neither put a stake net nor a bag net down.

4713. But they might put a drift net?—They

Mr. Donald Crawford—continued.

might put a drift net and go anywhere. The drift net is the same as a herring net; the salmon are hung in it; it drifts in the open sea, and is not fixed.

4714. You say the law of the Tweed is different from the law of the rest of Scotland in that respect. Do you know whether the law of the Tweed is the same as the law of England, or is the law of England the same as the law with regard to the rest of Scotland?—It is neither; the Tweed and the Solway are different from other parts of either England or Scotland.

4715. Does the law of England, do you know, permit the use of fixed nets?—The law of England prohibits fixed nets. I assume that at one time there were so many fixed nets on the coast of England that salmon were almost exterminated, and a law was passed to prohibit every kind of fixed net; so that now there is nothing but drift nets, and they are let on licenses; something like 10*l.* being paid for 100 yards of net.

4716. The licensee gets the exclusive right to a certain portion, does he?—To so many yards of net, and he is not restricted as to where he goes; but certainly, if that law was to be applied to Scotland, it would be most desirable to restrict the license to men resident within so many miles of the fishery, because some of the fisheries, as you see by the rental, are much more valuable than others, and if the fishermen were not restricted to a particular part of the coast they would all go to the best place.

4717. But then if they are measured, so many yards of nets, the good places would still be filled up and they would have to go to other places, would they not?—I presume so if the licenses are not granted for particular parts of the coast.

4718. From your long experience in Scotland, do you assume that there is some danger that the system of fishing entirely by fixed nets may have a bad effect upon the fisheries?—I am perfectly satisfied that if they go on for another 25 years, you will find that on the coasts of Scotland that salmon will decrease.

4719. At present fishing is entirely carried on by fixed engines, is it not?—By fixed engines.

Chairman.

4720. You think the salmon fishing as a productive industry is being injured by the mode in which it is at present carried on?—I do.

Mr. Shaw Stewart.

4721. That is a very interesting statement, for which I should like to know the reason; is it because enough fish do not escape from the fixed nets?—I assume you know what a fixed net is?

4722. Yes?—There is a stake net, a fly net, and a bag net; they are all fixed to the ground; the bag net floats; there are instances in Berwickshire where they put one ahead of the other out to sea to the number of six; consequently as the fish go creeping along the shore, there are leaders to guide them into the traps, and hardly any of them can escape.

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Mr. List.

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Mr. Shaw Stewart—continued.

4723. Then do you think the number of fish that get up to spawn is diminishing every year?—In the first place, taking the Tweed, I do not “think” at all, but I *know* that the salmon are becoming later; they come in in such shoals after the 15th September that there is a strong attempt made to get the fishing time extended to the 1st October; I also know that there are shoals of fish that come into the river in January; they call them “Norway fish” because they are a coarser fish; we get no good at all out of them; we cannot catch them, because they do not come when we can catch them; they go up to spawn, and they root up the ova of the salmon that we can catch; it is all thrown broadcast, and eaten up by bull trout and other trout.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4724. Is such a fishery as Mr. Johnson’s worked entirely by fixed engines?—Entirely by fixed engines, and all by bag nets; he has not got a stake net.

4725. What are the limits of his fishery?—He begins at Burnmouth, which is a fishery, I think, that he pays 100*l.* a year for now; it was let first for 12*l.*; it was let to a local man, who re-let it for 60*l.* for a number of years.

4726. He now pays 100*l.*; then he goes from Burnmouth, how far?—He goes from Burnmouth, takes in Eyemouth, then Mr. Brownlee comes between; then he takes in Abb’s Head, and goes all the way to near Dunglass; then he begins again in East Lothian at Gosford and goes to North Berwick by Dirleton.

4727. What I wanted to know was what he pays 500*l.* for?—The 500*l.* is from Skateraw Harbour in East Lothian, round by Dunglass and round by St. Abb’s Head.

4728. Supposing that the system of licenses were adopted, have you made any calculation, or have you any idea how the return would compare with the 500*l.* which Mr. Johnson pays?—In a large fishery like that they would not get as much money from licenses as they would in other places. Taking, for instance, East Lothian, there are no highly rented fisheries in that valuation. There is Gosford, 5*l.*; Dirleton, 20*l.*; Tynefield, 10*l.*; Seafield, 15*l.* (that is at Dunbar); Boglehill, 5*l.* (that adjoins the Earl of Wemyss’s property); North Berwick, 20*l.*; and Dunglass, 75*l.*; which is part of the 500*l.* just mentioned.

4729. Part of Mr. Johnson’s?—Yes; the Woods and Forests make no distinction between counties. I was consulted by the assessor, and by his predecessor, as to how many nets were used on each side, so that he might have some means of forming an idea as to how much value should go into one county and how much into another.

4730. I do not know that you quite appreciate my point. Probably you may not have made the calculation or applied your mind to it?—I have, and I am satisfied that in the fisheries taken by Mr. Johnson, they would not get the half of the amount by licenses which he now pays as rent.

4731. Are there other places where you think they would get as much, or more?—As regards these small fisheries, there is Gosford, 5*l.*, taken by Mr. Anderson, a fishmonger in Edinburgh; suppose fishermen paid for each drift net 5*l.*, they would get half-a-dozen drift nets on that

Mr. Stormonth Darling—continued.

fishery. On these small fisheries increase would be got, but certainly not on the large.

4732. Just one other question; I cannot forget the law for the moment on the Tweed, is there not some prohibition of fixed engines within a certain distance of the mouth of the river?—Yes; there is no fixed engine nearer than five miles from the south of the Tweed, and five miles from the north of it; that is, the mouth of the river.

4733. All that space round the Tweed is treated as river, is it not?—Yes; the mouth of the river.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4734. As estuary?—It is the estuary.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4735. And there nothing is used except a net, or net and coble?—No drift nets; only coble. Drift nets are not allowed by the Scotch Act.

4736. But the same restriction applies to the estuaries of all the Scotch rivers, does it not?—It does.

Mr. Donald Crawford.

4737. Those limits were fixed by the Scotch Act, were they not?—They were.

4738. Under the Salmon Fishery Act, 1862?—Yes.

4739. In the year 1862?—Yes.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4740. Notwithstanding that, you give me your opinion that the existence of fixed engines beyond those limits rather tends to injure the increase of salmon in the river?—I am satisfied that the Tweed itself will be injured by the increase of the fisheries on the Tweed, because from the fisheries on the Tweed they take boat-loads (small boat-loads), and on the other side they take cart-loads.

Sir Henry Fletcher.

4741. Are these fixed nets down all the year round?—They only fish during the open season, the same as all other salmon fisheries.

4742. In this part of Scotland, when does the netting season close?—In Scotland the netting season closes in February, and continues down to the 26th August.

4743. Is there a weekly close time in the case of those nets?—There is. Stake and float nets must be open at the rear, seaward, and they must be tied up so that there may be a free passage of the fish, and in the case of the bag nets the leader must guide the fish into the trap must be taken up, removed and taken ashore in Berwick, but in other parts of Scotland they may be tied up or looped up.

4744. Berwick is the only coast to which the law applies?—It is similar. There is no difference between the Scotch Act and the Tweed Act. The Scotch Act provides that they take them out at 6 o’clock at night of Saturday and put them in at 6 o’clock in the morning of Monday. The Tweed Act enacts that they take them out at low-water before 6 o’clock, because they cannot take them out at low-water.

4745. I think the rod fishing on the Tweed

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Mr. LIST.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Fletcher—continued.

remains open longer than any other in Scotland, does it not?—It does.

4746. To the 15th November, is it not?—To the 30th November.

Mr. DONALD BEITH, called in ; and Examined.

Chairman.

4749. You are the law agent of the Office of Woods and Forests in Scotland, are you not?—Yes.

4750. How long have you been agent?—I was appointed in the spring of 1870.

4751. You have been about 19 years the law agent then?—Yes.

4752. There is a Paper handed in showing that the net amount of your bills for the last 12½ years amounts to 14,523 l. 10 s. 7 d.?—Yes.

4753. Showing an average of 1,161 l. a year?—Yes.

4754. Can you tell us how much of that represents disbursements?—I have had an abstract made while I have been up here. I should explain to the Committee that I am agent, not merely for the Woods and Forests, but for several other Departments. I was appointed to a number of those Departments in 1870. I am agent for the Board of Trade, the Board of Works, the Admiralty, the Treasury; I do business for the Education Board, and the Scotch Education Department, and also for the War Department for some years past. I have had made up here a statement of all my actings as agent for those various Departments, and perhaps the simplest way would be to put in that statement. (*The statement is handed in, vide Appendix.*)

4755. Practically you represent the English Government in Scotland?—Yes.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4756. Except, of course, that there is the Crown Agent who represents the Crown in all criminal matters?—I have nothing to do with criminal matters. I was originally appointed by salary.

Chairman.

4757. What was the salary?—The salary was 500 l.; I was allowed 500 l. for clerks, and 175 l. for an office. Besides that I had stationery and other things.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4758. Was that for the Woods and Forests one, or for the whole?—For the whole.

Chairman.

4759. Originally you were appointed at a salary?—Yes.

4760. When was the change made (and by whom) from salary to bills?—In 1875–76 I think the change was made.

4761. What was the reason for that change?—There were two reasons, perhaps. One was that I am not merely solicitor for the Crown; I carry on my own business; and I found, holding the two offices, and with this allowance for 0.103.

Sir Henry Fletcher—continued.

4747. The others close mostly about the 15th October, do they not, the rod fishing?—Yes.

4748. Beginning when the nets are taken out?—Yes; all rod fishing begins then, but is a legal mode of fishing during summer.

Chairman—continued.

clerks, that the business of my office was very much disarranged.

4762. In other words, the change was made on your application, the arrangement not being satisfactory to you?—It was.

4763. Now I see, taking this abstract, that the gross amount received by you in law bills since the year 1876 is 33,962 l.; that includes the "outlays," does it not?—Yes; but I have stated the "outlays" separately there.

4764. I will put it separately then, if you like it better in that way; you put your "outlays" at 19,439 l.?—Yes.

4765. You put your professional charges at 14,523 l.; is not that so?—Yes, I think so; you have it there.

4766. Which makes the total amount altogether of your law bills 33,962 l. Then you say, "Deduct sums received;" what do you mean by that; do you mean received from other people?—Yes.

4767. That amount is 9,104 l.?—I sometimes get expenses back when we succeed on litigation.

4768. That leaves the net total cost of your office to the taxpayer, 24,858 l.?—Yes.

4769. That will give the average annual cost of 1,988 l.?—Yes; including the "outlays," you observe.

4770. Practically the appointment will be worth to you about 1,200 l. a year?—It is about that. The average for the Woods and Forests in those years is 1,100 l.

4771. That is, including the disbursements; that does not matter; the disbursements whether paid by you in law bills or paid by you on a salary would be just the same?—Yes.

4772. But, taking your net profit over 12½ years at 14,523 l., practically the post is worth to you about 1,100 l. a year?—About that, for all the appointments.

4773. At our last meeting I wanted to know the particulars of that litigation in the parish of Elgin, of which we then heard; I want to know what was the amount in dispute?—The point in dispute was very much this, it was a question of valuation.

4774. Yes; we have got the point in dispute; that was very fully stated; I want to know the amount; Mr. Culley stated to us very fully what was the point in dispute; when I asked him the amount of teind that was in dispute he could not tell me that?—The question involved the title of the Crown to arrears of surplus teinds amounting to 694 l. 11 s. 7 d., and to the teind itself, which was estimated to be worth 71 l. 12 s. per annum. My charges for that were 132 l. 8 s. 2 d., and the outlay 1,038 l. 3 s. 7 d. The question was whether certain lands were included in an old valuation; lands that appeared under different names altogether from the lands that were stated

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Mr. BEITH.

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Chairman—continued.

in the valuation. There was a full case of information laid before counsel, and counsel advised that we should try the question. The lands not named in the old valuation, were, on a proof, held to have formed part of them at the time of the valuation some 200 years ago; and in that way the Crown were thrown out of the advantage they expected to get by establishing that these lands had not been valued.

4775. The point, as I understand you, in dispute was as to teinds amounting to 71*l.* per annum?—I do not understand the question.

4776. What was the amount in dispute in that litigation?—£. 71. 12*s.* per annum.

4777. £. 71 per annum?—Yes.

4778. That 71*l.* per annum you had not previously been receiving, but you claimed it?—We claimed it.

4779. And in order to claim that 71*l.* per annum, you had to pay in your own law bills between 1,100*l.* and 1,200*l.*; and, how much had you to pay to the other side?—That is stated, I think, in the abstract.

4780. No, it is not; there is only 1,600*l.* put here?—The expenses incurred by the Crown in the Earl of Fife's case were these: My fees in the case were 132*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; the outlay, 396*l.* 13*s.*, and we paid Lord Fife's agent, 641*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*

4781. What is the gross total?—£. 1,170 11*s.* 9*d.*

4782. You paid 1,170*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, and were beaten?—And we were beaten.

4783. Were you advised by the law officers in Scotland in that case?—I was, and at every stage of it.

4784. You used the word "counsel"; do you mean by "counsel" the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General?—Yes.

4785. Is not there a junior counsel to advise you?—Yes.

4786. In this case was it his opinion, or the opinion of the law officers?—It was the opinion of the three counsel that the case should be tried.

4787. And that opinion was submitted to the Treasury?—I think so; I do not know whether it was submitted to the Treasury; it was submitted to the Woods and Forests.

4788. It was submitted to the Commissioners?—Yes; it was a question of fact very much.

4789. I do not dispute that it was a very proper question to try?—We were advised very strongly by the local agents, who are most respectable gentlemen in Elgin, and also by the common agent in the Teind Process, to try the question.

Mr. Jackson.

4790. You say that before this act entered upon the opinion of the law officers taken?—Yes.

4791. And they advised that it was that ought, fairly, to be tried?—They did. The case had been going on for a great many years, and it was decided neither one way nor the other, and it was resolved at last that we should go to the test the question whether these lands were valued or not; that is very much the point of the matter.

4792. Were any other cases depending upon the result of this case?—No; I do not know. There was any other case depending upon a part of the question turned upon this, the lands said to be unvalued were in one parish or the other, the parish of Lhanbryde, parish of Elgin; if they were in the one parish we were told that they could not be valued; if they were in the other parish they might be so held; and the effect of the body of the evidence we had before the court was brought was, that they were in the parish of Lhanbryde, I think; I forget which was just now, but that was the question.

4793. At any rate, so far as you could form an opinion, it was your duty, in the interests of the estates for which you were responsible, to try the case?—Certainly.

4794. That was the opinion of the law officers?—That was the opinion of the law officers and the local agent too.

Mr. Stormonth Darling.

4795. I know nothing about the content of the case, but it was a question, as I understand, that arose on the interim locality of the parish, was it not?—Quite so.

4796. And the claim was put forward by the proprietor, Lord Fife?—Yes.

4797. What you had to consider was whether you would admit the claim or withstand it?—Quite so.

4798. And you were advised, as you heard, that it was a proper case to try; I suppose there was no "law" in it?—No, it was purely a question of fact.

4799. A question of fact to be determined by evidence on the spot: I think we heard that Mr. Culley?—Just so.

4800. A commission was granted, was it not?—There was a proof held before the Sheriff Ordinary.

4801. And the expense was chiefly incurred in bringing up witnesses to the trial?—In bringing up witnesses and others.

A P P E N D I X.

LIST OF APPENDIX.

APPENDIX, No. 1.

Paper handed in by Mr. George Culley, 21 June 1889 :

Dean Forest - - - - -

APPENDIX, No. 2.

Papers handed in by Mr. George Culley :

(A.)—Return of the Income of the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown, showing the Receipts and Payments during the Years 1850 to 1888 - - - - -

(B.)—A Return of the Capital of the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown, showing the Receipts and Payments during the Years 1850 to 1888 - - - - -

(C.)—A Return of the Income and Expenditure of the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown for the last Fourteen Years, 1875 to 1888 - - - - -

A Statement (supplemental to a Return of the Income and Expenditure of the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown for the last Fourteen Years, 1875 to 1888) showing the Salary, Per-centage, and all other Emoluments of each Receiver - - - - -

(D.)—A General Abstract showing the Sources from which Income has been derived in the Ten Years ended 31st March 1888 - - - - -

Expenditure - - - - -

Abstract showing the Sources from which Income in England has been derived in the Ten Years ended 31st March 1888 - - - - -

Expenditure - - - - -

Abstract showing the Sources from which Income in Wales has been derived in the Ten Years ended 31st March 1888 - - - - -

Expenditure - - - - -

Abstract showing the Sources from which Income in Scotland has been derived in the Ten Years ended 31st March 1888 - - - - -

Expenditure - - - - -

Abstract showing the Sources from which Income in Ireland has been derived in the Ten Years ended 31st March 1888 - - - - -

Expenditure - - - - -

Abstract showing the Sources from which Income in the Isle of Man has been derived in the Ten Years ended 31st March 1888 - - - - -

Expenditure - - - - -

Abstract showing the Sources from which Income in the Isle of Alderney has been derived in the Ten Years ended 31st March 1888 - - - - -

Expenditure - - - - -

APPENDIX, No. 3.

Paper handed in by Mr. T. F. Brown, 21 June 1889 :

Dean Forest - - - - -

APPENDIX, No. 4.

Paper handed in by Mr. George Culley, 25 June 1889 :

Land Revenues of the Crown.—Property in Charge with Mr. Culley (excepting Royal Forests and Woodlands), inclusive of Gross Income from Mines, one Moiety of the Net Income from which is placed to the Capital Account.—Year ended 31st March 1888 - - - - -

APPENDIX, No. 5.

Paper handed in by Colonel Nigel Kingscote, C.B., 25 June 1889 :

Statement of all Manors, Messuages, Land, and other Hereditaments (exclusive of Windsor Great Park, Bagshot Park, and the Crown Plantations at Ascot, Bagshot, &c.), in charge of Colonel Kingscote, and of the Rents and Profits derived therefrom, in the Year ended on the 31st day of March 1889, divided into Seven Classes, viz. : 1. Farms and Land let or in hand, and cultivated for agricultural purposes. 2. Houses and other Buildings let at Rack Rents, or at Rents which have been fined down from Rack Rents. 3. Land let for Building Purposes, including Land let at Ground Rents, which have been purchased. 4. Mines, Minerals, and Substrata. 5. Tolls of Markets, Ferries, and Miscellaneous Property. 6. Manors (Quit Rents, Mines, &c.). 7. Timber and Thinnings of Woods &c. - - - - -

APPENDIX, No. 6.

handed in by Mr. George Culley, June 1889 :	PAGE
Return of the Names, Duties, and Remuneration of Persons employed in the Administration of the Department of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues - - - - -	238
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Windsor Forests, Parks, and Woods.—Establishment of the Deputy Surveyor - - - - -	243
Windsor Forests, Parks, and Woods.—Establishment appointed by H.R.H. Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, K.G., Ranger, who is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen - - - - -	244
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Capital Receipts, 1849-1888 - - - - -	253
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Arms.—Scotland - - - - -	255

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Particulars of Revenue, with Rents received, in the Year 1887-88 - - - - -	258
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handed in by Colonel Nigel Kingscote, C.B., 28 June 1889 :	
Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1882 :	
Mr. Little's Report :	
The Duke of Bedford's Landed Estates.—Statement of the Percentage which the Expenditure for Fixed Charges, Management, Repairs, and Works respectively bears to Rents, for the Years 1879 or 1880. Communicated by T. T. Wing, Esq., Bedford Office, Bloomsbury - - - - -	275
Abstract of Yearly Receipts on Lord De L'Isle and Dudley's Penshurst Estate of about 4,500 Acres, from 1871 to 1880 inclusive - - - - -	277
Abstract of Yearly Payments on Lord De L'Isle and Dudley's Penshurst Estate, from 1871 to 1880 inclusive - - - - -	276
Mr. Druce's Report, Bedfordshire :	
Statement of the Percentage which the Expenditure for Fixed Charges, Management, Repairs and Works on the Duke of Bedford's Estate of Woburn and Bedford bears to the Rents actually received from those Estates, for the Years 1879 and 1880 - - - - -	277
Mr. Druce's Report, Cambridgeshire :	
Thorney Estate.—Statement of the Percentage which the Expenditure for Fixed Charges, Management, Repairs, and Works respectively bears to the Rents actually received, for the Years 1879 and 1880 - - - - -	277
Mr. Druce's Report, Northamptonshire :	
I.—Analysis of Estate Accounts, from 1858 to 1878 - - - - -	278
II.—Analysis of Estate Accounts, from 1859 to 1878, inclusive - - - - -	279

APPENDIX, No. 12.

Paper handed in by Colonel Nigel Kingscote, C.B., 2 July 1889 :

Statement, showing the Sums advanced from Capital for Permanent Improvements, and the Proportion repaid out of Income, from 1866 to 1889, inclusive, under the Provisions of the Crown Lands Act, 1866, Section 1	PAGE 281
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APPENDIX, No. 13.

Paper handed in by Colonel Nigel Kingscote, C.B., 28 June 1890 :

Cash Account from 1st to 31st January 1888	283
Instructions to be particularly attended to in making up the Cash Account	283
Cash Account from 1st to 31st January 1888	284

APPENDIX, No. 14.

Paper handed in by Mr. George Culley, 5 July 1889 :

Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown.—Statement of Gross Income, Gross Expenditure, and Payments into the Exchequer out of Net Income, for each Year from 5th January 1837 to 31st March 1888	297
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APPENDIX, No. 15.

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Return of all Correspondence between the Commissioners of Woods and the Treasury in reference to the Crown Receivers keeping separate Banking Accounts for Crown Moneys received by them	298
Statement showing the Names of the Officers of the Department of Woods, &c., and of Windsor Great Park, who receive and account for Public Moneys, with Particulars of the Amounts received, and of the Banking Accounts to which they are paid	299

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Paper handed in by Mr. George Culley, 5 July 1889 :

New Forest.—Return showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888	302
New Park Farm	302
Dean Forest.—Return showing the Receipts (including Mines) and Expenditure, together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888	302
Dean Forest.—Return showing the Receipts (excluding Mines) and Expenditure, together with the Surplus Revenue, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888	303
Highmeadow Woods.—Return showing the Receipts (including Mines) and Expenditure, together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888	303
Alice Holt Forest.—Return showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888	305
Woolmer Estate.—Return showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888	304
Bere Woods.—Return showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888	304
Parkhurst Woods.—Return showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888	304

APPENDIX, No. 17.

Paper handed in by Mr. Cates, 9 July 1889 :

Statement of Mr. Cates' Fees in connection with the Crown Property under the charge of Colonel Sir Nigel Kingscote, K.C.B., for each of the 18 Years ended 31st March 1888, and showing the Total Charge upon the Land Revenues in respect of those Fees for each Year	305
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APPENDIX, No. 18.

Paper handed in by Mr. Spencer W. Gore, 19 July 1889 :

Return of Agricultural and Mineral Rents since appointment as Receiver	306
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APPENDIX, No. 19.

Paper handed in by Mr. George Culley, 23 July 1889 :

Scotland.—Law Agent.—Mr. Beith's Bills	307
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APPENDIX, No. 20.

Paper handed in by Mr. George Culley, 26 July 1889 :

Statement showing the Receipt and Expenditure in respect of Agricultural Lands, &c., for the the Years ended the 31st March 1888 and 1889	308, 309
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APPENDIX, No. 21.

aper handed in by Mr. George Culley, 26 July 1889 :

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Wales.—Crown Revenue.—Estimate of Area of Lands in which the Crown possesses Mineral Rights 310

APPENDIX, No. 22.

aper handed in by Mr. Donald Beith, 26 July 1889 :

Scotland.—Woods and Forests Department.—Return of the Particulars of Proceedings in the Court of Session, Scotland, between the Earl of Fife and the Lord Advocate, as representing the Commissioners of Woods and Forests - - - - - 310

APPENDIX, No. 23.

aper handed in by Mr. Donald Beith, 26 July 1889 :

Statement of Expenditure, Professional Charges, and Receipts in connection with the Office of Solicitor in Scotland, for the Office of Her Majesty's Woods and Forests and other Government Departments, for the Period from 1st July 1876 to 31st December 1888 - - - - - 311
Abstract - - - - - 313
Abstract of Cost of Office in connection with Her Majesty's Woods and Forests - - - 313

APPENDIX, No. 24.

aper handed in by Mr. George Culley :

Policy of the Commissioners of Woods, &c., in dealing with the Land Revenues of the Crown - - 314

A P P E N D I X.

APPENDIX, No. 1.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *George Culley*, 21st June 1889.

DEAN FOREST.

		£.	s.	d.
F. BROWN,—				
Salary, including Payment to Clerks in Registry and Receiver's Office	- - - - -	903	5	4
Highmeadow Commission	- - - - -	23	6	4
Allowance for Horse	- - - - -	50	-	-
Clerks	- - - - -	202	10	-
Mineral Survey	- - - - -	61	12	3
Incidental Expenses :		£.	s.	d.
Cleaning Offices	- - - - -	13	17	11
Postage	- - - - -	15	3	3
Stationery, Advertising	- - - - -	101	4	9
Coal, Gas, &c.	- - - - -	11	11	9
Mineral Returns	- - - - -	6	6	-
Filling up Old Pits	- - - - -	6	-	-
Gale Dinners	- - - - -	35	5	6
Repairs, Gaveller's and Receiver's Office	- - - - -	55	-	-
Rates and Taxes on Gaveller's and Receiver's Office	- - - - -	3	16	8
		248	5	10
Poor Rates	- - - - -	1	19	5
		£.	1,490	19 2
J. FRANCIS,—				
Salary and Expenses	- - - - -	81	9	10
Superannuation	- - - - -	271	3	10
J. CAMPBELL, BART.,—				
Salary	- - - - -	25	10	6
		£.	1,869	3 4

alley.

the COMMISSIONERS of WOODS, FORESTS, and LAND

Miscellaneous.	Properties under Special Management.	Windsor Royal Forests and Woodlands.	TOTALS.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1,305 17 3	10,786 1 10	49,447 3 1	349,097 5 2
1,467 4 11	10,905 1 4	44,684 17 5	347,356 1 2
925 11 9	6,297 11 7	67,415 14 -	367,489 17 1
1,183 13 3	3,136 13 2	90,240 7 11	382,396 17 3
1,025 - 8	3,356 2 8	75,344 - 2	387,417 17 5
1,291 7 2	3,229 14 6	59,042 16 10	383,756 15 1
756 15 -	4,261 2 9	82,863 14 4	410,329 12 -
17,592 15 2	1,238 12 4	63,812 14 9	445,688 8 10
506 7 2	1,446 13 5	68,744 - 5	418,199 8 1
3,649 7 11	937 18 2	47,760 13 4	417,868 19 5
2,102 2 -	818 13 6	56,955 9 -	415,358 17 4
1,351 18 4	668 19 3	45,738 19 6	411,444 16 8
1,053 - 7	368 15 -	47,521 10 10	417,440 8 4
2,619 19 5	438 15 -	56,497 7 2	432,419 2 1
2,133 9 7	401 5 -	42,324 12 10	425,766 15 5
832 18 8	401 5 -	50,902 16 1	441,620 3 9
4,508 18 8	401 5 -	49,457 16 2	449,677 8 3
4,206 4 5	401 5 -	46,407 - 5	432,456 3 7
2,912 6 6	401 5 -	52,310 9 11	449,252 6 10
1,490 5 2	350 17 6	49,532 4 2	446,173 14 5
3,657 1 -	448 5 9	46,437 10 2	447,723 11 4
1,053 10 3	375 5 -	45,606 2 5	446,151 16 10
4,024 10 11	417 5 -	37,115 14 7	446,800 15 11
1,408 12 10	504 8 2	40,205 16 1	458,903 3 4
817 - 1	396 5 -	40,399 3 5	463,241 9 5
1,938 6 1	411 14 6	40,929 15 7	469,090 17 6
1,227 16 6	524 11 8	41,821 7 11	479,674 18 1
1,320 9 7	397 - 3	38,638 19 2	488,294 14 6
1,766 9 10	223 10 -	34,330 6 5	490,819 15 5
4,429 2 1	136 - -	28,179 10 5	489,448 11 9
1,361 19 10	123 10 -	28,567 7 9	470,216 13 11
1,764 16 3	86 - -	31,469 7 6	463,437 14 7
1,581 14 11	86 - -	36,619 14 4	473,001 - 6
3,586 - 1	86 - -	30,701 17 9	491,101 14 7
7,123 11 11	484 15 -	35,576 18 8	498,252 14 6
2,388 - 11	886 - -	30,587 16 9	483,305 19 1
2,564 2 4	1,211 - -	28,120 4 7	477,820 - 5
2,659 16 8	1,211 - -	26,340 18 6	472,450 6 11
5,998 14 7	1,244 5 -	28,888 5 5	507,427 17 5
103,587 - 3	59,500 12 4	1,808,541 5 9	17,248,404 14 4
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	174,977 15 9
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	1,125 8 11
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	£. 17,424,507 19 -

Public Buildings, were united, and consequently some of the figures for the

APPENDIX, No. 2.

PAPERS handed in by Mr. Geo

(A.)

REVENUES of the CROWN, showing the RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS during the Years 1850 to 1888.

P A Y M E N T S

Salaries, &c. of Receivers, &c.	Incidental Expenses of Receivers, &c.	Mines.	Surveys, Plans, &c. of Crown Property.	Repairs, and Repayment of Advances for Permanent Improvements.	Allowances to Crown Tenants.	Property Tax and Rates and Taxes.	Fixed Charges, Donations to Schools, &c.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
6,658 2 4	554 10 10	602 3 9	1,868 18 -	2,819 13 5	2,671 19 8	8,857 5 4	10,743 6 3 {
6,397 12 11	773 2 10	830 6 7	2,280 10 7	5,976 12 10	1,131 3 8	9,220 3 9	10,504 12 3 {
6,270 11 4	588 5 7	1,168 4 10	1,319 19 3	10,170 5 11	1,241 1 7	8,525 17 3	10,194 18 - {
6,516 8 8	826 - 9	—	729 19 4	7,450 6 11	957 7 11	7,115 5 -	9,650 6 3 {
6,890 12 2	604 10 -	—	4,327 5 4	19,413 4 10	2,201 8 4	7,385 15 10	9,883 9 1 {
7,541 18 -	536 3 10	1,007 9 2	3,969 8 8	20,830 14 4	92 3 8	12,032 11 7	8,063 7 8
8,002 14 8	641 10 3	1,285 - 1	2,625 10 2	36,654 19 11	1,072 2 10	1,552 8 -	10,997 19 8
8,104 4 4	681 2 -	1,636 6 4	3,355 3 -	57,753 17 10	158 9 1	19,427 17 9	9,035 6 4
8,411 12 9	685 9 2	1,706 6 6	4,077 13 11	37,491 9 5	241 12 6	14,443 18 4	10,130 4 -
8,635 1 3	638 6 2	1,770 17 1	3,587 4 1	35,425 1 8	160 16 4	8,278 7 4	9,627 9 3
8,744 5 3	849 14 7	4,521 4 1	2,439 6 9	23,541 12 10	239 17 6	11,705 9 9	9,421 19 -
9,093 9 10	777 7 9	1,700 3 -	2,771 15 5	25,220 6 9	185 18 10	10,825 17 5	11,617 10 6
9,110 13 3	446 12 4	2,056 13 2	4,287 18 7	28,423 16 -	268 2 9	13,193 12 7	9,806 10 10
9,275 13 9	726 8 5	2,873 4 5	5,380 2 -	19,677 11 -	581 1 10	13,403 17 1	10,508 7 9
9,165 - 9	612 15 6	2,479 8 2	3,107 6 -	21,560 19 6	618 12 11	12,254 19 5	10,379 19 8
9,980 3 -	681 11 -	1,970 - -	5,429 10 4	25,557 9 5	403 11 10	10,914 14 2	9,917 7 8
9,850 11 -	594 12 11	2,975 13 -	3,663 11 3	28,362 19 8	218 16 9	8,110 1 10	9,780 15 -
9,067 15 8	690 - 4	593 2 2	3,743 3 -	9,842 17 2	110 19 10	7,408 13 9	10,032 10 9
9,068 13 -	674 11 3	—	3,920 1 6	8,349 17 4	870 14 3	7,114 6 4	10,692 4 6
9,455 4 10	497 17 5	—	2,966 10 7	3,928 5 6	100 - -	9,663 4 -	8,830 5 3
9,495 7 7	657 2 9	—	3,468 10 7	4,534 10 9	229 3 4	8,648 9 11	7,156 - 9
9,237 19 5	488 5 7	—	2,399 4 2	4,118 18 10	23 - -	7,423 19 7	6,437 6 4
8,791 3 9	532 11 7	—	3,768 15 9	4,911 19 -	—	7,240 7 11	4,427 - 7
8,727 6 7	513 15 5	—	3,913 8 4	6,661 3 9	—	9,732 5 5	6,783 18 11
8,709 12 2	473 5 4	—	4,202 - 11	5,753 4 4	—	7,246 13 7	5,879 4 10
8,703 5 2	493 6 3	—	4,159 2 11	6,537 8 2	—	6,331 13 11	6,222 - 3
8,746 13 1	460 16 8	—	4,852 18 5	7,767 6 11	—	5,372 5 8	4,962 15 7
9,131 - 6	550 16 8	—	3,393 4 6	7,412 3 -	—	5,328 15 9	7,712 18 2
9,214 17 -	623 4 5	—	3,542 19 11	7,554 3 -	—	6,665 17 -	5,638 16 5
9,457 17 8	671 10 5	—	3,427 - 7	9,582 13 5	—	6,930 1 1	3,441 - 9
8,964 18 6	501 9 1	—	3,275 9 4	10,975 7 10	—	9,804 16 1	4,031 18 7
8,742 17 9	549 9 9	—	5,097 18 6	12,565 11 11	—	9,621 4 2	3,758 2 2
7,751 3 1	536 4 8	—	3,315 8 5	15,749 2 9	—	10,074 7 10	4,000 3 5
8,261 15 5	509 7 11	—	5,211 11 -	15,277 16 8	—	10,080 12 11	3,254 8 11
9,002 5 5	515 17 2	—	5,806 13 2	23,112 5 2	—	11,286 14 2	4,701 12 6
9,061 7 6	503 14 3	—	5,876 15 6	19,046 1 7	—	9,128 14 4	3,690 1 1
7,937 3 10	502 4 4	—	3,731 5 8	18,198 - 8	—	11,174 12 1	2,180 4 5
7,138 12 7	498 5 2	—	3,645 10 4	19,904 16 8	—	13,530 19 9	2,678 8 11
6,958 12 2	512 7 2	—	2,972 11 4	20,133 13 2	—	14,251 11 7	2,051 5 -
330,274 7 11	23,174 7 6	29,176 2 4	141,911 7 1	648,248 4 10	13,780 5 5	371,308 9 3	288,825 17 3

* These items include office establishment, salaries, certain legal charges, and superannuation payments.

Culley.

the Crown,

Miscellaneous.	Properties under Special Management.	Windsor, Royal Forests and Woodlands.	Payments to Consolidated Fund.	TOTALS.	Year ended 31st March,
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
6,778 6 10 42,818 5 6	58,323 5 8	49,409 - 4	200,000 - -	392,102 17 11	1850
4,244 3 7 40,136 5 11	51,664 15 7	46,020 6 2	160,000 - -	339,179 16 8	1851
3,609 11 3 39,932 2 9	13,220 6 6	54,657 5 11	190,000 - -	340,898 10 2	1852
4,992 18 7 1,561 - 9	1,714 1 11	60,404 15 5	252,000 - -	353,918 11 6	1853
5,490 17 4 6,209 1 2	1,772 9 3	67,427 16 4	395,888 9 3	527,494 18 11	1854
6,634 19 9	1,477 18 11	59,946 - 8	272,571 16 8	394,704 12 11	1855
11,123 14 10	929 12 4	57,694 12 6	281,515 15 9	414,096 1 -	1856
12,063 13 3	1,408 15 6	55,470 1 9	284,857 1 6	453,951 18 8	1857
10,031 8 3	539 19 4	58,171 - 10	276,654 4 1	422,584 19 1	1858
8,949 18 1	487 4 1	55,088 6 8	280,040 9 5	412,689 1 5	1859
5,231 - 3	421 14 2	50,757 3 3	284,479 5 8	402,352 13 1	1860
10,375 10 6	521 16 8	50,598 2 11	290,568 4 7	414,256 4 2	1861
12,582 17 11	179 13 5	54,567 12 8	295,000 - -	429,924 3 6	1862
12,316 14 5	357 7 4	50,690 9 1	300,000 - -	425,790 17 1	1863
16,364 9 6	260 3 4	46,403 2 5	305,000 - -	428,206 17 2	1864
14,234 11 4	271 14 3	42,687 19 6	310,000 - -	432,048 12 6	1865
8,687 2 10	194 17 3	44,084 2 7	320,000 - -	436,523 4 1	1866
7,990 7 2	456 7 8	47,411 18 3	330,000 - -	427,347 15 9	1867
5,799 16 11	166 11 11	49,123 13 9	345,000 - -	440,780 10 9	1868
3,100 1 10	901 12 7	48,763 1 10	360,000 - -	448,206 3 10	1869
4,723 12 -	25 12 9	48,652 - 1	375,000 - -	462,590 10 6	1870
3,236 15 9	256 15 6	47,150 12 8	385,000 - -	465,774 17 10	1871
4,560 18 11	474 10 8	51,890 3 4	375,000 - -	461,597 11 6	1872
2,771 9 9	20 8 4	41,324 10 7	375,000 - -	455,448 7 1	1873
2,450 12 7	400 7 -	43,226 10 10	375,000 - -	453,341 11 7	1874
3,833 - -	614 14 11	39,250 13 11	385,000 - -	461,145 - 6	1875
2,597 14 5	383 6 5	40,713 17 6	395,000 - -	470,857 14 8	1876
6,169 13 9	244 17 -	43,258 2 -	410,000 - -	493,201 11 4	1877
5,974 3 6	603 4 6	47,271 12 -	410,000 - -	497,088 17 9	1878
6,069 12 6	319 16 3	48,500 19 2	410,000 - -	498,400 11 10	1879
4,300 15 9	216 5 6	41,396 8 9	390,000 - -	473,467 9 5	1880
5,550 4 10	504 5 4	44,795 14 7	390,000 - -	481,185 9 -	1881
9,389 16 5	422 8 11	45,989 9 8	380,000 - -	477,228 5 2	1882
8,341 17 8	605 4 3	45,812 2 2	380,000 - -	477,354 16 11	1883
8,133 6 3	1,132 7 11	50,093 6 7	380,000 - -	493,784 8 4	1884
6,519 - 4	220 5 10	45,688 18 7	380,000 - -	479,734 19 -	1885
9,928 12 10	236 5 6	49,496 8 -	380,000 - -	483,384 17 4	1886
6,213 2 3	655 18 6	42,858 2 1	370,000 - -	467,123 16 3	1887
6,353 1 8	394 1 2	41,112 1 9	390,000 - -	484,739 5 -	1888
408,374 11 8	143,001 3 11	1,907,858 7 1	13,068,575 6 11	17,374,508 11 2	
Balance, 31st March 1888				49,999 7 10	
				£. 17,424,507 19 -	

TOTALS

£. s. d.

18,077 14 6

83,006 13 7

27,849 3 4

55,277 5 2

57,236 7 11

94,613 14 11

95,003 2 5

110,608 12 -

112,948 6 11

168,239 9 11

65,208 6 1

78,947 3 4

41,390 18 11

161,896 13 -

106,001 11 8

16,676 - 1

77,902 19 1

123,164 16 6

103,618 18 6

108,130 - 3

100,907 1 4

17,784 17 6

10,457 16 1

16,544 13 1

11,772 7 7

13,710 17 6

10,609 16 -

1,271 13 6

1,238 4 3

1,653 - 4

1,677 14 11

1,895 5 8

1,545 9 8

1,584 13 1

1,285 15 8

1,372 3 8

1,449 3 -

1,123 3 6

178 6 -

showing the RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS during

P A Y M

Purchase of Estates, including payments for qualization of Exchanges.	Redemption of Tithes, Land Tax, &c.	Enfranchise- ments of Copyholds.	Purchase of Forestal Rights, &c.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
5,000 - -	165 6 10	273 1 3	-
1,657 8 3	304 10 6	-	-
3,529 10 -	-	157 14 2	-
4,613 - -	2 6 8	-	-
9,277 15 -	40,577 9 3	-	-
7,137 - -	-	50 - -	-
4,301 7 9	3,281 10 8	-	-
1,013 18 2	477 14 8	299 - -	-
1,035 - -	444 17 3	17 10 -	-
1,979 4 11	-	103 3 9	210 - -
437 17 6	367 - 1	-	1,760 - -
487 13 9	3,471 13 6	22 5 8	-
956 16 3	1,341 12 4	-	315 - -
190 13 -	19 2 4	4,087 11 2	-
153 10 -	2,599 - -	-	-
54 14 4	4,011 18 4	346 4 -	-
40 7 -	2,015 8 3	8 8 8	-
85 4 -	12,870 3 5	-	-
36 7 -	3,161 2 9	-	-
18 7 7	279 2 6	146 15 2	20 - -
0 - -	3,881 7 11	-	-
1 15 -	1,266 10 3	83 3 11	46 - -
10 -	1,445 13 4	200 - -	-
13 4	3,477 2 9	36 9 -	-
13 9	385 17 8	-	40 - -
10 -	3,995 13 7	-	-
-	558 16 4	-	-
9 6	94 7 6	-	-
16 3	3,029 11 5	-	-
10 -	4,335 8 3	-	-
6 8	620 7 8	-	-
10 -	3,460 12 6	96 1 4	-
-	951 4 5	-	-
-	921 2 5	-	-
6 -	1,629 12 3	-	-
-	1,202 19 6	-	24 - -
-	4,807 17 1	-	-
-	890 6 10	-	-
-	-	-	24 - -
-	112,344 11 -	5,927 8 1	2,439 - -

Difference between total sales and
other securities - - -

Balance on 1st Ap

Balance on 31st M

INCOME:

1. Rents of Agricultural Land - - - - -	-
2. Rents and Royalties of Mines (a) - - - - -	-
3. Forests and Woodlands - - - - -	-
4. Ground Rents and Houses - - - - -	-
5. Dividends and Interest - - - - -	-
6. Miscellaneous Receipts (b) - - - - -	-
TOTAL GROSS INCOME - - - - -	£.

DEDUCTIONS:

Losses (Irrecoverable Arrears discharged) (c) - - - - -	7,
Repayments - - - - -	3,
Allowances and Abatements to Crown Tenants - - - - -	-
Allowances for Shortworkings, Mines - - - - -	-
Property and Land Tax allowed to Crown Tenants - - - - -	5
NET INCOME - - - - -	£.

EXPENDITURE:

1. Salaries of Commissioners, Clerks, and Office Staff,
excluding Receivers, Surveyors, and Legal Depart-
ment.2. Salary, Per-centage, and all other Emoluments of
each Receiver, viz: (d)

John Clutton - - - - -	England	4
E. J. Smith, afterwards Spencer W. Gore - - - - -	1	
Thomas Forster Brown - - - - -	-	-
G. E. Francis (Dean Forest, &c.) - - - - -	-	-
Sir James Campbell, bart. - - - - -	-	-
William Wilkin (Wales, &c.) - - - - -	-	-
(George Bellairs, James Keir, then Donald Beith, afterwards John Stewart. - - - - -	Scotland	1
John Berry - - - - -	-	-
A. J. Napier - - - - -	-	-
James Barnett - - - - -	-	-
Lady Willoughby D'Eresby - - - - -	-	-
Various Collectors (Ireland) - - - - -	-	-
F. C. Skrimshire, afterwards Ridgway Harrison (Isle of Man). - - - - -	-	-
J. A. Guérain (Alderney) - - - - -	-	-
Various Stewards, Bailiffs, Mine Agents, &c. - - - - -	-	-

3. Incidental Expenses of Receivers - - - - -	-
4. Surveyors, Plans, &c. - - - - -	-
5. Legal - - - - -	-
6. Repairs - - - - -	-
7. Rates and Taxes - - - - -	-
8. Forests and Woodlands - - - - -	-
9. Donations to Churches, Schools, &c. - - - - -	-
10. Miscellaneous Payments:	-
Fixed Charges, Stipends, &c. - - - - -	-
Rents of Premises - - - - -	-
Recording deeds, &c. - - - - -	-
Superannuation Allowances, Gratuities, &c. - - - - -	-
Farms in hand (e) - - - - -	-
Expenses connected with sales of produce, &c. - - - - -	-
Other miscellaneous charges - - - - -	-

11. Repayments of Advances for Permanent Improvements
TOTAL EXPENDITURE - - - - - £.(a) One moiety of the net income from mines is credited
with the Crown Lands Act, 1866. For the purpose of the
taken.(b) Owing to the form in which the Return has been
heading all that part of the Crown Revenue which does
other headings. Rents of foreshore land, office charges
Estates, receipts from farms in hand, fee farm, &c., rents

(C.)
A RETURN of the INCOME and EXPENDITURE of the COMMISSIONERS of
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH.

1875.		1876.		1877.		1878.		1879.		1880.	
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
120,080 4 6	120,080 4 6	122,375 15 10	122,375 15 10	125,600 2 4	125,600 2 4	122,719 18 7	122,719 18 7	126,162 9 7	126,162 9 7	120,863 6 3	120,863 6 3
50,333 16 7	50,333 16 7	54,646 1 7	54,646 1 7	55,422 1 11	55,422 1 11	52,638 11 11	52,638 11 11	47,433 13 -	47,433 13 -	48,271 15 10	48,271 15 10
40,939 15 7	40,939 15 7	41,821 7 11	41,821 7 11	38,638 19 2	38,638 19 2	34,330 6 5	34,330 6 5	28,179 10 5	28,179 10 5	28,567 7 9	28,567 7 9
187,723 11 6	187,723 11 6	192,114 13 5	192,114 13 5	200,608 19 6	200,608 19 6	206,315 8 11	206,315 8 11	211,686 14 2	211,686 14 2	220,491 13 16	220,491 13 16
6,039 - 11	6,039 - 11	6,573 4 -	6,573 4 -	7,156 10 5	7,156 10 5	8,949 12 4	8,949 12 4	8,887 18 9	8,887 18 9	6,457 - -	6,457 - -
94,441 9 2	94,441 9 2	92,337 10 8	92,337 10 8	93,250 3 9	93,250 3 9	95,063 3 2	95,063 3 2	96,895 7 4	96,895 7 4	90,310 7 5	90,310 7 5
499,487 18 3	499,487 18 3	510,868 13 5	510,868 13 5	520,674 17 1	520,674 17 1	522,007 1 4	522,007 1 4	519,245 13 8	519,245 13 8	515,061 11 4	515,061 11 4
85 3 7	85 3 7	10,178 8 11	10,178 8 11	27,858 18 11	27,858 18 11	13,168 19 8	13,168 19 8	92,307 5 11	92,307 5 11	11,439 16 4	11,439 16 4
42 17 5	42 17 5	2,066 3 -	2,066 3 -	1,666 19 7	1,666 19 7	2,936 3 9	2,936 3 9	1,765 6 2	1,765 6 2	1,579 11 2	1,579 11 2
- - -	- - -	50 - -	50 - -	817 8 -	817 8 -	649 16 -	649 16 -	2,493 17 11	2,493 17 11	17,154 19 1	17,154 19 1
51 9 1	51 9 1	786 2 -	786 2 -	970 - 11	970 - 11	933 12 10	933 12 10	753 11 3	753 11 3	1,292 3 1	1,292 3 1
05 4 2	05 4 2	4,119 3 11	4,119 3 11	4,445 14 -	4,445 14 -	5,834 14 6	5,834 14 6	6,445 13 7	6,445 13 7	9,236 9 5	9,236 9 5
9,833 10 8	9,833 10 8	7,021 8 11	7,021 8 11	7,900 2 6	7,900 2 6	10,354 7 1	10,354 7 1	11,458 8 11	11,458 8 11	29,253 2 9	29,253 2 9
489,654 7 7	489,654 7 7	503,847 4 6	503,847 4 6	512,774 14 7	512,774 14 7	511,852 14 3	511,852 14 3	507,787 4 4	507,787 4 4	485,698 8 7	485,698 8 7
16,338 12 1	16,338 12 1	16,508 13 10	16,508 13 10	16,702 10 -	16,702 10 -	16,280 16 10	16,280 16 10	16,474 5 3	16,474 5 3	16,567 2 5	16,567 2 5
20 3 1	20 3 1	4,255 14 3	4,255 14 3	4,369 19 7	4,369 19 7	4,335 9 2	4,335 9 2	4,436 2 7	4,436 2 7	4,091 11 9	4,091 11 9
113 19 2	113 19 2	1,228 16 11	1,228 16 11	1,406 11 5	1,406 11 5	1,425 14 4	1,425 14 4	1,497 - 6	1,497 - 6	1,445 15 8	1,445 15 8
197 4 2	197 4 2	699 15 1	699 15 1	682 6 3	682 6 3	663 3 -	663 3 -	763 7 4	763 7 4	695 3 5	695 3 5
110 4 2	110 4 2	677 10 4	677 10 4	729 11 1	729 11 1	752 19 3	752 19 3	710 2 6	710 2 6	649 10 3	649 10 3
199 2 3	199 2 3	1,317 1 -	1,317 1 -	1,367 6 8	1,367 6 8	1,452 5 11	1,452 5 11	1,655 9 5	1,655 9 5	1,514 19 4	1,514 19 4
100 - -	100 - -	100 - -	100 - -	100 - -	100 - -	100 - -	100 - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
61 6 10	61 6 10	50 14 8	50 14 8	49 12 7	49 12 7	48 14 9	48 14 9	48 15 5	48 15 5	46 19 3	46 19 3
120 - -	120 - -	120 - -	120 - -	120 - -	120 - -	120 - -	120 - -	120 - -	120 - -	120 - -	120 - -
358 3 8	358 3 8	860 9 5	860 9 5	850 18 7	850 18 7	851 16 1	851 16 1	835 19 6	835 19 6	830 9 8	830 9 8
150 12 2	150 12 2	786 19 8	786 19 8	749 10 1	749 10 1	739 18 2	739 18 2	525 18 2	525 18 2	514 - 4	514 - 4
48 - -	48 - -	48 - -	48 - -	60 - -	60 - -	48 - -	48 - -	48 - -	48 - -	48 - -	48 - -
143 1 4	143 1 4	1,722 9 2	1,722 9 2	2,083 3 2	2,083 3 2	1,984 - 11	1,984 - 11	1,894 - 3	1,894 - 3	1,518 19 4	1,518 19 4
11,451 16 10	11,451 16 10	11,867 10 6	11,867 10 6	12,467 19 5	12,467 19 5	12,512 1 8	12,512 1 8	12,534 15 8	12,534 15 8	11,775 8 -	11,775 8 -
765 1 10	765 1 10	690 6 6	690 6 6	721 6 4	721 6 4	759 12 3	759 12 3	861 17 6	861 17 6	639 11 9	639 11 9
4,543 9 5	4,543 9 5	5,304 - 5	5,304 - 5	3,746 6 6	3,746 6 6	3,788 10 8	3,788 10 8	3,576 16 2	3,576 16 2	3,337 13 10	3,337 13 10
5,928 13 3	5,928 13 3	5,623 14 -	5,623 14 -	6,202 7 5	6,202 7 5	5,448 - 8	5,448 - 8	3,875 2 11	3,875 2 11	4,049 1 4	4,049 1 4
3,033 10 6	3,033 10 6	4,025 9 7	4,025 9 7	3,336 16 8	3,336 16 8	3,712 17 9	3,712 17 9	3,892 2 8	3,892 2 8	4,175 3 10	4,175 3 10
1,691 11 11	1,691 11 11	1,863 1 5	1,863 1 5	1,778 11 9	1,778 11 9	1,577 17 2	1,577 17 2	1,433 16 3	1,433 16 3	1,489 6 1	1,489 6 1
39,250 13 11	39,250 13 11	40,713 17 6	40,713 17 6	43,258 2 -	43,258 2 -	47,271 12 -	47,271 12 -	48,500 19 2	48,500 19 2	41,296 8 4	41,296 8 4
5,583 6 1	5,583 6 1	4,532 14 5	4,532 14 5	7,221 18 -	7,221 18 -	5,266 13 7	5,266 13 7	2,899 19 4	2,899 19 4	2,416 12 -	2,416 12 -
42 12 5	42 12 5	671 5 2	671 5 2	647 4 2	647 4 2	578 6 10	578 6 10	695 5 5	695 5 5	743 18 7	743 18 7
128 10 9	128 10 9	414 5 3	414 5 3	418 17 9	418 17 9	407 6 4	407 6 4	434 10 8	434 10 8	410 6 1	410 6 1
145 13 10	145 13 10	241 14 6	241 14 6	547 - 4	547 - 4	470 15 8	470 15 8	448 4 4	448 4 4	484 14 6	484 14 6
13 - -	13 - -	11 - -	11 - -	444 19 6	444 19 6	588 19 1	588 19 1	592 14 1	592 14 1	377 2 5	377 2 5
- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	3,284 18 8	3,284 18 8	2,719 8 9	2,719 8 9	2,339 2 10	2,339 2 10	1,924 17 11	1,924 17 11
86 13 3	86 13 3	54 19 11	54 19 11	455 - 5	455 - 5	560 6 5	560 6 5	504 19 2	504 19 2	598 11 -	598 11 -
144 - 3	144 - 3	2,203 1 3	2,203 1 3	1,094 12 10	1,094 12 10	1,791 - 7	1,791 - 7	2,080 10 9	2,080 10 9	1,568 8 7	1,568 8 7
5,160 10 6	5,160 10 6	3,596 6 1	3,596 6 1	6,887 13 8	6,887 13 8	7,184 3 8	7,184 3 8	7,075 7 3	7,075 7 3	5,207 16 1	5,207 16 1
3,503 12 8	3,503 12 8	3,834 16 7	3,834 16 7	4,193 2 11	4,193 2 11	4,841 5 3	4,841 5 3	5,738 3 7	5,738 3 7	6,824 9 7	6,824 9 7
97,250 19 -	97,250 19 -	98,469 10 10	98,469 10 10	106,515 14 8	106,515 14 8	107,593 11 6	107,593 11 6	106,866 5 9	106,866 5 9	99,467 - 7	99,467 - 7

to the capital of the Land Revenue, in compliance with the Order of the Select Committee, Return the gross income and the expenditure are

ordered, it has been necessary to include against this the description expressed in any of the deeds, &c., proceeds of sales of produce of Crown Lands in England and Wales, quit rents, &c., in Ireland, feu

duties, tithes and salmon fishings in Scotland, may be mentioned as among the items of revenue accounted for under this heading.

(c) The amount of rents discharged each year is inserted, for the purpose of complying with the form appended to the Order for the Return, but it is not deducted from the gross income for each year, because it is not a deduction from the gross income. The rents, &c., discharged comprise arrears, which in some cases have been accumulated for many years, and in a considerable number of cases the arrears were discharged, not because the persons charged were unable to pay, but because on investigation it was found that their liability could not be established.

(C.)

WOODS, FORESTS, and LAND REVENUES of the CROWN for the last FOURTEEN YEARS.

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH.

1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.	
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£.
	111,383 12 4		104,520 17 -		115,125 11 -		117,228 14 5		126,922 1 10		101,640
	49,724 17 1		50,889 18 11		52,049 12 5		47,445 3 9		47,193 - 7		49,072
	31,469 7 6		36,619 14 4		30,701 17 9		35,576 18 8		30,587 16 9		28,120
	219,675 8 6		231,886 18 11		231,846 6 8		233,323 7 6		235,259 2 6		242,648
	8,675 1 10		6,339 - 4		11,877 18 5		22,289 2 7		23,399 4 7		18,383
	87,412 17 -		86,193 18 6		92,163 5 2		99,132 5 10		92,915 8 10		89,249
	509,341 4 3		519,460 8 -		539,764 11 5		554,995 12 9		556,276 15 1		529,114
4,622 -		6,096 10 6		10,921 8 2		10,225 5 -		5,278 15 10		6,741 14 8	
2,019 8 4		1,231 18 1		1,615 10 -		2,468 7 9		3,877 13 7		1,652 18 1	
15,725 4 6		17,155 10 -		19,037 11 4		28,565 9 4		44,704 6 6		23,156 6 8	
1,390 8 9		1,431 10 8		562 17 3		639 15 5		539 10 11		520 3 3	
9,301 14 2		10,099 9 8		9,637 18 2		10,980 14 2		9,107 12 -		11,161 1 7	
	28,436 15 9		29,918 8 5		30,753 16 9		42,654 6 8		58,229 3 -		36,490
-	479,904 8 6	-	489,631 19 7	-	509,010 14 8	-	512,341 6 1	-	498,047 12 1	-	492,624
	16,738 - 8		16,319 10 5		16,866 19 3		17,013 7 7		17,171 7 4		16,676
3,923 - 4		3,737 14 6		4,086 5 10		4,873 11 4		4,925 10 3		3,927 6 1	
1,464 3 7		1,427 - 2		1,496 15 2		1,427 4 7		1,380 5 8		1,380 11 2	
-		-		-		-		-		-	
672 17 7		695 10 8		683 1 8		699 15 10		871 17 4		852 9 11	
-		-		-		-		-		-	
665 8 10		669 - 2		682 1 6		654 4 6		661 17 11		665 6 11	
1,603 10 11		950 - -		950 - -		950 - -		950 - -		950 - -	
-		-		-		-		-		-	
52 18 4		60 2 11		40 13 3		44 13 10		41 3 5		36 16 1	
120 - -		120 - -		120 - -		120 - -		120 - -		120 - -	
15 - -		15 - -		15 - -		15 - -		15 - -		15 - -	
767 7 5		783 - 11		851 19 10		862 2 7		864 - 1		768 9 6	
605 16 9		672 12 8		585 2 8		792 19 7		654 6 2		663 - 6	
48 - -		48 - -		48 - -		48 - -		48 - -		48 - -	
1,765 5 7		1,697 15 7		1,797 12 1		1,683 4 3		1,565 1 10		1,481 2 5	
	11,723 9 4		10,765 17 7		11,366 12 -		12,070 16 6		12,096 2 8		10,908
	893 - 2		788 3 8		663 1 9		739 14 2		757 13 1		678
	5,342 1 -		3,605 18 5		5,513 1 1		6,329 5 11		6,006 - 3		3,823
	3,722 8 8		3,998 1 5		4,185 9 10		4,223 17 1		4,524 11 9		4,327
	4,665 6 5		6,932 6 6		5,782 2 5		13,038 11 8		7,737 8 9		5,940
	1,356 3 1		1,198 3 -		1,596 5 10		1,387 1 3		1,226 1 10		1,309
	44,795 11 7		45,989 9 8		45,813 2 2		50,093 6 7		45,688 18 7		49,496
	3,214 12 -		3,417 6 9		2,809 14 -		4,032 17 -		2,963 18 -		1,533
627 14 2		697 - 8		808 18 11		782 19 6		840 7 1		760 11 5	
426 18 3		420 11 11		456 19 3		720 4 1		676 16 8		659 13 10	
377 9 6		339 6 2		201 14 9		595 15 10		548 3 11		476 7 9	
245 6 4		1,322 2 7		1,175 3 11		1,430 2 -		731 - 11		1,004 18 -	
5,922 9 -		5,631 16 11		4,453 - 1		3,709 12 7		2,399 16 5		5,998 19 8	
756 - 2		779 16 8		866 19 11		963 17 11		968 10 9		1,177 15 5	
1,545 17 2		1,139 16 9		1,673 14 2		1,388 - 10		1,527 15 10		852 11 10	
	6,609 14 8		10,330 11 8		9,638 11 -		9,590 12 9		7,692 11 7		10,930
	7,947 9 6		8,818 19 11		9,504 19 3		10,196 6 4		11,319 12 10		12,298
-	106,828 - 1	-	112,114 9 -	-	113,728 18 7	-	128,715 16 10	-	117,184 6 8	-	117,922

(*) In order that the figures may be correct under the classified headings, this heading includes only the amount made to receivers, &c., as such, and coincides with the headings "Salaries and Per-centage of Receivers of Rewards of Manors," in the accounts annually laid before Parliament, which include allowances for clerks in office expenses. The payments made to the receivers acting as surveyors, are included against the heading Surveyors, Plans, &c." A supplementary statement is appended, however, showing all the emoluments of the receiver. The payments include the personal travelling and office expenses of the receivers, in the

performance of the duties entrusted to them. A &c., is recovered by the office, from the person surveyed and valued.

(*) The stock, crops, &c., on the farms in ha Receipts (Income).

COMMISSIONERS of WOODS, FORESTS, and LAND

R C H.

	1887.		1888.	
s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
4 1		82,555 8 3		85,860 14 1
E. 3 6		49,870 13 6		47,591 14 1
4 7		26,340 18 6		28,888 5 5
7 11		247,677 10 9		258,965 5 5
16 7		14,175 17 9		17,702 7 2
16 8		89,768 4 10		106,614 4 6
13 4		510,388 13 7		545,622 10 8
	14,121 - 7		2,026 13 2	
4 35	2,346 16 10		3,984 - 3	
42	8,738 1 1		8,628 4 11	
	389 8 5		238 16 1	
51 9 7	13,706 16 -	25,181 2 4	14,193 3 9	27,042 5 -
05 3 9	-	485,207 11 3	-	518,580 5 8
9 6		16,705 16 10		16,709 5 2
	3,298 11 10		3,241 7 9	
	1,117 - 10		1,152 11 6	
20	-		353 5 4	
13	788 1 3		62 15 7	
	-		29 10 11	
197	654 16 6		678 1 10	
110	1,122 16 5		950 - -	
199			-	
	33 16 6		37 11 8	
100	120 - -		120 - -	
61	15 - -		15 - -	
120	755 3 7		764 2 1	
	701 5 7		672 17 9	
358	48 - -		48 - -	
150	1,500 6 11		1,503 9 5	
48 2 7		10,154 19 5		9,628 13 10
143 4 4		699 9 11		707 5 1
4 -		3,832 14 10		3,183 19 7
10 4		4,686 4 -		5,419 18 4
10 2		6,838 5 5		6,294 19 1
3 1		1,300 9 7		1,427 12 10
8 -		42,858 2 1		41,112 1 9
17 -		1,969 2 -		1,463 13 6
	764 6 11		756 15 6	
42	640 8 8		351 2 11	
128	202 11 4		349 19 1	
145	598 2 5		940 17 2	
13	2,668 7 10		3,396 1 6	
	995 10 4		885 18 4	
86 17 11	1,643 17 8	7,613 5 2	1,120 - 4	7,900 14 10
141 11 11		13,093 5 7		13,893 14 1
18 10	-	109,758 14 10	-	107,631 18 1

considerable proportion of the payments on account of surveys, as who are in treaty for the Crown property which has been and are of considerable value. See also note (b) to Miscellaneous

1878.	1879.		1880.	
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
	4,436 2 7		4,091 31 9	
	2,208 7 2		2,341 4 3	
	81 16 10		114 14 -	
8,907 14 2		0,726 6 7		1,567 12 -
	1,497 - 6		1,468 15 8	
	566 6 6		569 2 9	
	-		48 9 -	
2,922 16 5		2,063 7 -		1,202 - -
	-		-	
	-		-	
	763 7 4		695 2 4	
	129 8 11		118 15 6	
784 10 4		809 10 3		-
	-		-	
	-		-	
	710 9 0		649 10 3	
	82 15 3		70 9 4	
	10 10 -		12 10 -	
928 2 8		803 7 9		-
1,462 5 11		1,656 9 5		-
	-		-	
	-		-	
100 - -		-	-	
48 14 9		48 15 3		-
120 - -		170 - -		-
		-	-	
		-	-	
729 18 3		525 18 3		-
		-	-	
48 - -		48 - -		-

Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues.

REVENUE

A GENERAL ABSTRACT showing the Sources from

HEAD OF RECEIPT.	1881			
	1879.	1880.	1881.	
Crown Rents, viz. :	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
London property - - - - -	189,361 14 5	195,425 6 4	198,960 11 9	201
Lands, Foreshores, &c. - - - - -	153,718 17 2	134,760 18 9	126,701 7 4	118
Unimprovable Rents, including Tithes -	71,402 2 4	68,453 10 2	63,773 11 6	64
TOTAL - - - £.	414,482 13 11	398,639 15 3	389,435 10 7	383
Mines and Quarries (Gross) - - - - -	45,390 16 6	45,676 9 -	47,434 4 6	48
(Half of Net carried to Capital.)				
Fines on the renewal of Crown Leases - -	4,290 - -	6,902 3 9	1,905 - -	14
Office Charges for Leases, Conveyances, Assignments, &c.	3,442 2 7	3,510 - 2	3,894 18 5	3
Fees on Acquittances of Rents in Ireland - -	901 12 5	892 15 5	851 19 2	
Sales of Produce of Crown Estates (including Woods under Receivers).	3,674 4 8	2,472 14 4	3,280 8 9	2
Interest of Money - - - - -	1,222 18 1	216 16 -	1,030 2 1	
Interest of Purchase Moneys of Estates sold -	6,678 10 1	5,782 3 -	6,268 5 4	
Rolls Estate - - - - -	136 - -	123 10 -	86 - -	
Miscellaneous Receipts, including Farms in hand.	4,429 2 1	1,361 19 10	1,764 16 3	1
Windsor Park and Woods - - - - -	5,871 19 -	5,017 19 10	4,111 1 5	6
Royal Forests and Woodlands under Deputy Surveyors.	22,307 11 5	23,549 7 11	27,358 6 1	30
Sources generally* - - - - -	986 10 7	458 1 -	1,376 14 5	4
TOTAL - - - £.	513,814 1 4	494,603 15 6	488,797 7 -	499

ABSTRACT showing the Sources from which INCO:

HEAD OF RECEIPT.				
	1879.	1880.	1881.	
Crown Rents, viz. :	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
London property - - - - -	189,361 14 5	195,425 6 4	198,960 11 9	201
Lands, Foreshores, &c. - - - - -	140,565 11 4	121,398 12 -	113,842 16 3	106
Fee Farm, Quit, and other Unimprovable Rents, including Tithes and other Manorial Fines.	4,856 7 8	4,529 3 9	3,953 15 5	5
TOTAL - - - £.	334,783 13 5	321,353 2 1	316,757 3 5	312
Mines and Quarries (Gross) - - - - -	26,954 12 6	29,918 9 5	28,947 12 2	30
(Half of Net carried to Capital.)				
Fines on the Renewal of Crown Leases - -	4,290 - -	6,902 3 9	1,905 - -	14
Office Charges for Leases, &c. - - - - -	2,761 11 8	2,832 7 5	3,036 18 6	2
Sales of Produce of Crown Estates (including Woods under Receivers).	3,674 3 8	2,472 14 4	3,280 8 9	2
Interest of Money - - - - -	488 15 5	-	754 17 5	
Rolls Estate - - - - -	136 - -	123 10 -	86 - -	
Interest of Purchase Moneys of Estates sold -	6,677 19 11	5,782 3 -	6,262 - 10	
Miscellaneous Receipts, including Farms in hand.	4,400 6 1	1,339 13 3	1,638 14 -	1
Windsor Park and Woods - - - - -	5,871 19 -	5,017 19 10	4,111 1 5	6
Royal Forests and Woodlands - - - - -	22,307 11 5	23,549 7 11	27,358 6 1	30
TOTAL - - - £.	412,846 13 1	399,291 11 -	394,138 2 7	403

* These are sums representin

(D.)

which INCOME has been Derived in the TEN YEARS ended 31st MARCH 1888.

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH.							TOTAL.
882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
27 7 2	208,774 5 9	204,096 11 -	201,097 2 4	219,873 11 8	225,943 14 6	237,008 3 8	2,081,968 8 7
44 8 1	127,202 8 9	121,133 17 5	125,175 - 8	112,173 9 -	108,505 18 3	110,149 1 4	1,237,765 6 10
91 13 8	67,536 5 11	67,824 15 8	67,125 1 10	62,521 12 5	60,896 15 11	61,310 9 4	654,935 18 8
63 8 11	403,513 - 5	393,055 4 1	393,397 4 10	394,568 13 1	395,346 8 8	408,467 14 4	3,974,669 14 1
20 15 4	50,488 12 11	45,823 3 2	43,129 7 9	47,525 10 10	48,335 1 7	46,083 19 11	468,808 1 6
89 - -	7,100 - -	7,648 - -	3,604 - -	1,400 - -	950 - -	12,710 - -	61,198 3 9
148 8 4	4,790 7 11	5,398 13 9	3,782 9 8	3,155 18 4	3,751 14 3	4,445 14 4	39,520 7 9
42 7 5	908 6 4	920 18 8	921 10 11	829 5 11	823 14 3	818 7 9	8,710 18 3
68 19 2	2,150 16 1	4,561 2 2	4,551 7 -	5,516 17 10	4,876 10 4	5,963 10 2	40,016 10 6
06 3 2	1,022 6 10	489 14 7	706 12 10	470 10 5	429 17 -	527 8 9	6,922 9 9
70 7 10	3,719 8 7	11,672 4 9	11,340 16 6	11,147 5 4	10,942 6 2	14,716 17 3	83,238 4 10
86 - -	86 - -	484 15 -	886 - -	1,211 - -	1,211 - -	1,244 5 -	5,554 10 -
81 14 11	3,586 - 1	7,123 11 11	2,388 - 11	2,564 2 4	2,659 16 8	5,998 14 7	33,457 19 7
19 9 6	5,232 9 2	4,885 12 1	4,335 17 8	4,631 11 11	4,993 11 9	4,442 4 6	49,641 16 10
13 00 4 10	25,469 8 7	30,691 6 7	26,251 19 1	23,488 12 8	21,347 6 9	24,446 - 11	255,410 4 10
62 9 4	10,136 3 -	10,127 3 3	11,351 15 3	6,766 - 10	2,803 14 7	2,458 1 2	51,026 13 5
59 8 9	518,202 19 11	522,881 10 -	506,647 2 5	503,275 9 6	498,471 2 -	532,322 18 8	5,078,175 15 1

IE in England has been Derived in the TEN YEARS ended 31st MARCH 1888.

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH.							TOTAL.
882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
27 7 2	208,774 5 9	204,096 11 -	201,097 2 4	219,873 11 8	225,943 14 6	237,008 3 8	2,081,968 8 7
48 2 5	115,604 12 11	108,728 12 6	113,255 16 7	99,242 3 3	95,947 9 10	97,261 - 3	1,111,894 17
22 2 10	5,325 9 6	4,182 14 4	4,713 10 11	4,840 11 4	4,193 17 3	5,298 4 1	46,915 17
97 12 5	329,704 8 2	317,007 17 10	319,066 9 10	323,956 6 3	326,085 1 7	339,567 8 -	3,240,779 3
93 17 2	32,269 11 6	28,835 2 4	29,654 19 3	32,673 7 4	30,662 14 2	30,656 5 8	301,066 11
89 - -	7,100 - -	7,648 - -	3,604 - -	1,400 - -	950 - -	12,710 - -	61,198 3
94 7 7	4,172 6 3	4,929 15 -	2,885 3 3	2,450 8 7	3,129 1 9	3,272 5 2	32,264 5
68 19 2	2,150 16 1	4,561 2 2	4,551 7 -	5,516 17 10	4,866 - 1	5,958 8 4	40,000 17
190 18 6	105 19 4	4 3 11	16 18 9	-	-	- 3 10	1,561 17
86 - -	86 - -	484 15 -	886 - -	1,211 - -	1,211 - -	1,244 5 -	5,554 10
70 7 10	3,693 1 -	11,672 4 9	11,337 1 9	11,143 3 6	10,934 6 10	14,716 8 9	83,188 10
55 17 10	3,503 8 6	7,059 3 7	2,285 6 -	2,474 16 9	2,537 12 3	5,839 - 1	32,633 10
19 9 6	5,232 9 2	4,885 12 1	4,335 17 8	4,631 11 11	4,993 11 9	4,442 4 6	49,641 16
100 4 10	25,469 8 7	30,691 6 7	26,251 19 1	23,488 12 8	21,347 6 9	24,446 - 11	255,410
66 14 10	413,487 8 7	417,770 3 3	404,875 2 7	408,946 4 10	406,716 15 2	442,852 10 3	4,103,600

interest from general sources which cannot be localised.

(D.)

EXPENDITURE

HEAD OF EXPENDITURE.	YEAR ENDED				
	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Salaries and Percentages of Receivers and Stewards of Manors.	9,457 17 8	8,964 18 6	8,742 17 9	7,751 3 1	8,261 15 5
Incidental Expenses of Receivers and Stewards of Manors.	671 10 5	501 9 1	549 9 9	536 4 8	509 7 11
Mines and Quarries (Gross) - - - -	4,140 2 9	3,897 14 1	4,085 - 3	4,196 1 2	4,513 17 10
Surveys, Plans, &c. of Crown Property - -	3,427 - 7	3,275 9 4	5,097 18 6	3,315 8 5	5,211 11 -
Repairs, &c. of Crown Estates - - -	3,844 9 10	4,150 18 3	4,618 2 5	6,950 2 10	5,772 17 5
Repayment to Capital for Advances for Permanent Improvements.	5,738 3 7	6,824 9 7	7,947 9 6	8,818 19 11	9,504 19 3
Property Tax allowed to Crown Tenants -	5,271 4 8	8,115 3 8	7,998 18 6	8,661 7 2	8,292 5 10
Rates and Taxes on Crown Property or Donations in lieu thereof.	1,658 16 5	1,689 12 5	1,622 5 8	1,413 - 8	1,788 7 1
Kensington Estate - - - - -	282 17 7	140 11 8	428 13 8	238 14 7	342 10 10
Rolls Estate - - - - -	36 18 8	75 13 10	75 11 8	183 14 4	262 13 5
Fixed Charges, Pensions, Stipends, and Allowances.	695 5 5	743 18 7	627 14 2	697 - 8	808 18 11
Donations to Churches, Schools, Institutions, &c.	2,745 15 4	3,288 - -	3,130 8 -	3,303 2 9	2,445 10 -
Miscellaneous Payments, including Farms in hand.	6,069 12 6	4,300 15 9	5,550 4 10	9,389 16 5	8,341 17 8
Windsor Park and Woods - - - -	31,232 10 3	25,734 8 -	23,377 12 2	25,991 10 1	25,138 6 6
Royal Forests and Woodlands - - -	17,268 8 11	15,662 - 9	21,418 2 5	19,997 19 7	20,673 15 8
TOTAL - - - £.	92,540 14 7	87,365 3 6	95,270 9 3	101,424 6 4	101,868 14 9

EXPENDITURE

HEAD OF EXPENDITURE.	YEAR ENDED				
	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Salaries and Percentages of Receivers and Stewards of Manors.	5,994 14 11	5,615 15 1	5,533 1 10	5,185 12 4	5,625 4 1
Incidental Expenses of Receivers and Stewards of Manors.	473 9 4	307 8 4	391 8 2	372 19 8	307 19 2
Mines and Quarries (Gross) - - - -	2,579 - 7	2,605 19 -	2,626 8 3	2,821 14 8	2,704 10 9
Surveys, Plans, &c. of Crown Property - -	3,290 8 3	3,178 4 4	4,897 7 9	3,231 2 6	4,929 16 11
Repairs, &c. of Crown Estates - - -	3,493 9 11	3,736 - 5	4,469 8 -	6,513 19 1	5,489 4 7
Property Tax allowed to Crown Tenants -	4,251 11 6	6,769 5 7	6,658 14 5	7,202 16 1	6,819 6 9
Rates and Taxes on Crown Property or Donations in lieu thereof.	960 13 11	1,123 14 4	897 7 -	1,111 11 1	789 5 9
Kensington Estate - - - - -	282 17 7	140 11 8	428 13 8	238 14 7	342 10 10
Rolls Estate - - - - -	36 18 8	75 13 10	75 11 8	183 14 4	262 13 5
Fixed Charges, Pensions, Stipends, and Allowances.	207 4 11	208 5 8	178 - 3 7	205 1 1	254 15 2
Donations to Churches, Schools, Institutions, &c.	2,703 15 4	3,280 - -	3,121 8 -	3,218 5 -	2,429 10 -
Miscellaneous Payments, including Farms in hand.	5,296 2 -	3,674 7 5	4,901 13 9	8,023 13 4	6,745 4 11
Windsor Park and Woods - - - -	31,232 10 3	25,734 8 -	23,377 12 2	25,991 10 1	25,138 6 6
Royal Forests and Woodlands - - -	17,268 8 11	15,662 - 9	21,418 2 5	19,997 19 7	20,673 15 8
TOTAL - - - £.	78,071 6 1	72,111 14 5	78,975 - 8	84,298 13 5	82,512 4 6

R. E.

D 31st MARCH.

1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	TOTAL.
£. s. d. 9,002 5 5	£. s. d. 9,061 7 6	£. s. d. 7,937 3 10	£. s. d. 7,138 12 7	£. s. d. 6,958 12 2	£. s. d. 83,276 13 11
515 17 2	503 14 3	502 4 4	498 5 2	512 7 2	5,300 9 11
4,234 7 9	4,352 18 11	4,185 7 5	4,506 8 6	4,506 2 7	42,618 1 3
5,806 13 2	5,876 15 6	3,731 5 8	3,645 10 4	2,972 11 4	42,360 3 10
12,915 18 10	7,726 8 9	5,899 8 9	6,811 11 1	6,239 19 1	64,909 17 3
10,196 6 4	11,319 12 10	12,298 11 11	13,093 5 7	13,893 14 1	99,635 12 7
9,646 2 6	7,626 9 11	9,509 11 8	11,876 9 6	12,489 9 11	89,487 3 4
1,640 11 8	1,502 4 6	1,665 - 5	1,654 10 3	1,762 1 8	16,396 10 8
663 2 -	196 7 11	183 16 4	543 6 11	283 3 10	3,303 5 4
469 5 11	23 17 11	52 9 2	112 11 7	110 17 4	1,403 13 10
782 19 6	840 7 1	760 11 5	764 6 11	756 15 6	7,477 18 2
3,918 13 -	2,849 14 -	1,419 13 -	1,914 2 -	1,294 9 6	26,309 7 7
8,133 6 3	6,519 - 4	9,928 12 10	6,213 2 3	6,353 1 8	70,799 10 6
26,218 9 11	23,681 18 2	25,873 17 5	23,547 18 11	23,237 1 2	254,033 12 7
23,874 16 8	22,007 - 5	23,622 10 7	19,310 3 2	17,875 - 7	201,709 18 9
118,018 16 1	104,087 17 11	107,570 4 9	101,630 4 9	99,245 7 7	1,009,921 19 6

E.

31st MARCH.

1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	TOTAL.
£. s. d. 6,190 9 3	£. s. d. 6,392 11 3	£. s. d. 5,340 11 7	£. s. d. 4,481 1 2	£. s. d. 4,399 10 2	£. s. d. 54,758 11 8
324 7 2	321 19 11	312 15 3	309 - 1	303 7 5	3,424 14 6
2,781 16 6	3,009 1 10	2,914 4 1	2,994 11 -	2,912 1 5	27,949 8 1
5,599 - 3	5,607 8 5	3,496 5 -	3,518 13 7	2,770 7 7	40,518 14 7
8,819 19 7	6,406 19 6	4,354 - 11	5,604 19 8	5,546 1 7	54,434 3 3
8,066 3 7	6,227 5 9	7,691 15 9	9,891 19 2	10,582 4 7	74,161 3 2
764 4 3	838 10 7	877 3 10	866 4 1	826 7 1	9,055 1 11
663 2 -	196 7 11	183 16 4	543 6 11	283 3 10	3,303 5 4
469 5 11	23 17 11	52 9 2	112 11 7	110 17 4	1,403 13 10
209 14 4	177 19 2	208 15 4	200 17 1	217 - 8	2,067 17 -
3,906 3 -	2,849 14 -	1,404 18 -	1,904 2 -	1,294 9 6	26,112 4 10
6,381 3 7	5,378 5 11	8,972 - 5	4,814 15 3	5,305 19 3	59,493 5 10
26,218 9 11	23,681 18 2	25,873 17 5	23,547 18 11	23,237 1 2	254,033 12 7
23,874 16 8	22,007 - 5	23,622 10 7	19,310 3 2	17,875 - 7	201,709 18 9
94,268 16 -	83,119 - 9	85,305 3 8	78,100 3 8	75,663 12 2	812,425 15 4

ABSTRACT showing the Sources from which INC

HEAD OF RECEIPT.				
	1879.	1880.	1881.	1
Crown Rents, viz. :	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Lands, Foreshores, &c. - - - -	254 11 9	261 16 1	182 13 3	
Unimprovable Rents, &c. - - - -	40,652 11 4	40,350 - 3	38,314 9 5	38,
TOTAL - - - £.	40,907 3 1	40,611 16 4	38,497 2 8	38,
Mines and Quarries (Gross) - - - - (Half of Net carried to Capital).	46 - -	48 - -	51 15 -	
Office Charges for Leases, Conveyances, Assignments, &c.	8 8 -	33 12 -	4 4 -	
Fees on Acquittances of Rents - - - -	901 12 5	892 15 5	851 19 2	
TOTAL - - - £.	41,863 3 6	41,586 3 9	39,405 - 10	39,

ABSTRACT showing the Sources from which INCOME

HEAD OF RECEIPT.				
	1879.	1880.	1881.	1
Crown Rents, viz. :	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Lands, Foreshores, &c. - - - -	1,179 14 -	1,406 8 4	1,235 10 -	
Unimprovable Rents - - - -	1,869 4 1	1,907 14 5	1,976 17 4	1,
TOTAL - - - £.	3,048 18 1	3,314 2 9	3,212 7 4	2,
Mines and Quarries (Gross) - - - - (Half of Net carried to Capital).	7,646 13 2	7,135 18 6	9,230 2 -	9.
Office Charges for Leases, Conveyances, Assignments, &c.	85 14 -	38 14 6	52 - -	
Sales of Produce of Crown Estates - - -	—	—	—	
Interest of Money - - - -	—	—	—	
Interest of Purchase Monies of Estates Sold -	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous Receipts - - - -	19 1 7	17 12 8	19 12 8	
TOTAL - - - £.	10,800 6 10	10,506 8 5	12,514 2 -	11,

ABSTRACT showing the Sources from which INCOME is

HEAD OF RECEIPT.				
	1879.	1880.	1881.	1
Crown Rents, viz. :	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Lands, Foreshores, &c. - - - -	198 1 3	216 3 6	182 19 4	1
Fee Farm, Quit and other Unimprovable Rents, including Tithes.	167 8 -	131 5 6	102 16 4	1
TOTAL - - - £.	365 9 3	347 9 -	285 15 8	?
Office Charges for Leases, &c. - - - -	—	- 10 6	—	
Miscellaneous Receipts - - - -	3 11 9	2 7 1	6 9 7	
TOTAL - - - £.	369 1 -	350 6 7	292 5 3	?

OME in *Ireland* has been Derived in the TEN YEARS ended 31st March 1888.

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH.							TOTAL.
1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
230 10 -	205 18 -	243 9 -	241 18 3	239 5 -	242 9 -	254 17 -	2,357 7 4
097 3 2	41,448 1 7	41,918 4 5	41,366 4 3	37,368 12 8	36,725 15 -	37,176 7 1	393,417 9 1
327 13 2	41,653 19 7	42,161 13 5	41,608 2 6	37,607 17 8	36,968 4 -	37,131 4 1	7,395,774 16 1
30 15 -	72 - -	10 15 -	9 8 -	32 12 -	10 - -	10 - -	321 5 -
12 3 -	10 8 -	16 11 -	21 13 3	10 16 8	18 19 6	2 2 -	138 17 9
842 7 5	908 6 4	920 18 8	921 10 11	829 5 11	823 14 3	818 7 9	8,710 18 9
212 18 7	42,644 13 11	43,109 18 1	42,560 14 8	38,480 12 3	37,820 17 9	38,261 13 10	404,945 17 1

in the *Isle of Man* has been Derived in the TEN YEARS ended 31st March 1888.

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH.							TOTAL.
1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
718 3 4	993 19 6	1,323 8 5	963 16 4	1,067 1 7	1,102 16 -	1,020 14 6	11,011 1 1
888 5 1	1,808 14 6	1,919 15 3	1,917 13 2	1,734 7 3	1,983 10 10	1,807 2 2	18,812 1 1
606 8 5	2,802 14 -	3,243 3 8	2,881 9 6	2,801 8 10	3,086 6 10	2,827 16 8	29,824 1 1
212 18 6	8,899 - 1	9,071 14 11	5,562 2 7	6,843 11 11	7,312 5 5	6,992 7 6	77,906 1 1
47 4 3	86 19 6	57 19 -	121 6 2	204 8 -	101 18 6	71 2 4	867 1 1
-	-	-	-	-	10 10 3	5 1 10	15 1 1
-	-	-	-	-	-	4 5 5	4 5 5
-	-	-	-	-	2 4 10	- 8 6	- 8 6
16 6 2	17 15 4	19 - 2	29 10 8	25 6 10	19 17 6	30 8 -	21 1 1
382 17 4	11,806 8 11	12,391 17 9	8,594 8 11	9,874 15 7	10,533 3 4	9,931 10 3	108,824 1 1

at the *Isle of Alderney* has been Derived in the TEN YEARS ended 31st March 1888.

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH.							TOTAL.
1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
190 11 5	233 9 7	221 10 6	196 14 3	231 4 2	197 19 8	224 14 9	2,111 1 1
41 1 6	169 13 2	155 14 10	134 15 9	138 - 10	137 13 5	105 15 11	1,111 1 1
331 12 11	463 2 9	377 5 4	331 10 -	369 5 -	335 13 1	330 10 8	3,111 1 1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 1 11	11 8 11	3 4 6	23 - 11	4 9 5	12 19 3	1 12 10	111 1 1
40 14 10	414 11 8	380 9 10	354 10 11	373 14 5	348 12 4	332 3 6	3,111 1 1

HEAD 4

Salary and P
Stewards of
Incidental Exp
of Manors.
Mines and Qua
Surveys, Plans,
Repairs, &c. of
Property Tax
Rates and Tax
tions in lieu
Miscellaneous

HEAD 4

Salaries and
Stewards of
Incidental Exp
of Manors.
Mines and Qua
Surveys, Plans
Repairs, &c. of
Property Tax
Rates and Tax
tions in lieu
Fixed Charges
Donations to
Miscellaneous

HEAD 4

Salaries and
Stewards of
Incidental Exp
of Manors.
Repairs, &c. of
Rates and Tax
Miscellaneous

APPENDIX, No. 3.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *T. F. Brown*, 21 June 1889.

DEAN FOREST.

No. 1 - - - A shallow Gale - - - Area 100 acres.

	£.	s.	d.
Cost of winning coal - - - - -	4,000	-	-
Machinery and appliances for raising coal - - - - -	1,000	-	-
Annual produce - - - 30,000 tons.			

30,000 tons, selling price 6 s. per ton - - - - -			£.	s.	d.	
			9,000	-	-	
<i>Deduct,—</i>						
Cost of raising, 5 s. per ton - - - - -	£.	s.	d.			
	7,500	-	-			
Interest and sinking fund on 1,000 l., at 5 per cent. - - - - -	50	-	-			
Trade profit and risk on 1,000 l., at 5 per cent. - - - - -	50	-	-			
			7,600	-	-	
			1,400	-	-	
Crown's 1-5th - - - - -			280	-	-	{ About 2½ d. per ton.
Freeminer's 4-5ths - - - - -			1,120	-	-	
<i>Deduct,—</i>						
Interest and sinking fund on 4,000 l., at 5 per cent. - - - - -	£.	s.	d.			
	200	-	-			
Trade profit and risk on 4,000 l., at 5 per cent. - - - - -	200	-	-			
			400	-	-	
Balance for Freeminer - - - £.			720	-	-	Per annum.

No. 2 - - - A deep Gale - - - Area 1,000 acres.

	£.	s.	d.
Cost of winning coal - - - - -	80,000	-	-
Cost of machinery and appliances for raising coal - - - - -	20,000	-	-
Annual produce - - - 200,000 tons.			

200,000 tons, selling price 6 s. per ton - - - - -			£.	s.	d.	
			60,000	-	-	
<i>Deduct,—</i>						
Cost of raising, 5 s. per ton - - - - -	£.	s.	d.			
	50,000	-	-			
Interest and sinking fund on 20,000 l., at 5 per cent. - - - - -	1,000	-	-			
Trade profit and risk on 20,000 l., at 5 per cent. - - - - -	1,000	-	-			
			52,000	-	-	
			8,000	-	-	
Crown's 1-5th - - - - -			1,600	-	-	{ About 2 d. per ton.
Freeminer's 4-5ths - - - - -			6,400	-	-	
<i>Deduct,—</i>						
Interest and sinking fund on 80,000 l., at 5 per cent. - - - - -	£.	s.	d.			
	4,000	-	-			
Trade profit and risk on 80,000 l., at 5 per cent. - - - - -	4,000	-	-			
			8,000	-	-	
Balance against the Freeminer - - - £.			1,600	-	-	Per annum.

If cost of winning and machinery is greater, the loss would be increased ; if less, the loss would be diminished.

APPENDIX, No. 4.

PAPER handed in by Mr. George Culley, 25th June 1889.

LAND REVENUES OF THE CROWN.

PROPERTY IN CHARGE with Mr. Culley (excepting Royal Forests and Woodlands).

INCLUSIVE OF GROSS INCOME from MINES, one Moiety of the Net Income from which is placed to the CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Year ended 31st March 1888.

	RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.									
	Gross Income from all Sources.		Cost of Collection and Management, Surveys, Plans, and Miscellaneous.		Repairs.		Donations to Churches, Schools, &c.		Fixed Charges and Rates and Taxes.		Total.	
	£.	s. d.	Amount.	Percentage of Receipts.	Amount.	Percentage of Receipts.	Amount.	Percentage of Receipts.	Amount.	Percentage of Receipts.	Amount.	Percentage of Receipts.
ENGLAND (Fee Farm Rents)	1,293	6 10	137 16 -	10·7	—	—	—	—	—	—	£. s. d. 137 16 -	10·7
WALES - - - -	14,284	13 2	1,497 3 3	10·5	38 15 6	·3	—	—	399 17 10	2·8	1,033 16 7	13·5
SCOTLAND - - - -	24,202	6 6	1,269 10 5	5·2	89 5 3	·4	—	—	2,002 6 9	8·3	3,361 2 5	13·9
IRELAND - - - -	38,261	13 10	*94719 9	2·5	—	—	—	—	1,183 18 5	3·1	2,131 18 2	5·8
ISLE OF MAN - - -	9,931	10 3	1,130 10 -	11·4	518 16 7	5·2	155 - -	1·6	26 19 8	·3	1,831 6 3	18·4
ISLE OF ALDERNEY -	'330	10 8	380 10 11	116·1	49 - 2	14·8	—	—	- 6 9	·1	429 17 10	130·0
TOTAL - - - -	88,304	1 3	5,363 10 4	6·1	693 17 6	·8	155 - -	·2	3,613 9 5	4·1	9,826 17 3	11·1

* Excluding Quit-Rent Office, Dublin, paid out of Vote.

APPENDIX, No. 5.

PAPER handed in by Colonel *Nigel Kingscote*, C.B., 25 June 1889.

STATEMENT of all MANORS, MESSUAGES, LAND, and other HEREDITAMENTS (exclusive of Windsor Great Park, Bagshot Park, and the Crown Plantations at Ascot, Bagshot, &c.), in charge of Colonel *Kingscote*, and of the RENTS and PROFITS derived therefrom in the Year ended on the 31st day of March 1889, divided into Seven Classes, viz. : 1. Farms and Land let or in hand, and Cultivated for Agricultural purposes. 2. Houses and other Buildings let at Rack Rents, or at Rents which have been fined down from Rack Rents. 3. Land let for Building purposes, including Land let at Ground Rents which have been purchased. 4. Mines, Minerals, and Substrata. 5. Tolls of Markets, Ferries, and Miscellaneous property. 6. Manors (Quit Rents, Mines, &c.). 7. Timber and Thinnings of Woods, &c.

COUNTY.	Parish or Place.	Class.	Hereditaments.	Acreage.	Rents, &c., Received in 1888-89.	OBSERVATIONS.
				A. R. P.	£. s. d.	
BEDFORD - - -	Dunstable - - -	5	Encroachment on the waste of the Manor of Dunstable	—	— - 4	The net excess of receipts during the year over the expenditure on farms in hand is given separately in the Abstract at end.
	Stagsden - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	2,369 1 23½	2,174 9 8	
		1	Farm and land in hand - -	323 3 26½	—	
		4	Lime (royalty) - - -	—	17 10 -	
		7	Thinnings from plantations -	139 2 20	55 5 -	
					2,247 5 -	
BERKS - - -	Windsor - - -	1	Farms near the Great Park and the Crown plantations	904 2 29	1,631 15 5	
		2	Fifteen houses and cottages adjacent to the Long Walk	—	225 10 -	
		3	Land let for building, 267 houses, with some stables, &c., have been built by the lessees - - -	59 2 10	1,617 10 3	
		4	Bricks and gravel (royalty) -	—	383 15 2	
		5	Tithe rentcharges and miscellaneous - - -	—	68 12 5	
		6	Manors of Clewer Brocas &c.	—	3 14 11	
		7	Timber and underwood - -	—	18 17 -	
BUCKS - - -	Datchet - - -	1	Meadow land, and land abutting on the Thames opposite Windsor Home Park, &c. -	76 0 17	212 10 -	
		3	Land let for building, with two houses thereon - -	11 0 2	145 - -	
	Eton - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	221 1 6	361 18 4	
		3	Land let for building, with a house thereon - - -	5 1 27	50 - -	
		5	Various hereditaments - -	—	2 10 -	
CAMBS - - -	Burwell - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	808 1 23	1,018 14 4	
		6	Manor of Burwell Ramseys, Quit-rents, &c. - - -	—	31 10 8½	
	Isle of Ely - - -	5	Tithe rent-charges - - -	—	3 9 3	
					1,053 14 2½	
CHESTER - - -	Chester City - - -	2	Nine houses - - -	—	57 14 -	Part sold as from Midsummer, and the remainder as from Christmas, 1888.
		1	Farms and land - - -	2,480 0 16	4,224 - 8	
	Delamere - - -	2	House and land and two cottages - - -	20 1 20	157 7 4	
		4	Gravel, &c. (royalty) - -	—	42 4 6	
		5	Grazing and sporting over woods - - -	—	147 16 -	
		7	Timber and thinnings of woods - - -	2,125 2 13	772 19 6	
	Macclesfield - - -	6	Manor of Macclesfield - -	—	6 1 8	
	New Brighton - - -	5	Sites of piers and other parcels of the foreshore of the Mersey and of the Irish Sea	—	169 1 -	
	West Kirby - - -	4	Royalty on clay from the foreshore of the River Dee -	—	1 10 -	
					8,678 14 8	

STATEMENT of all Manors, Messuages, Land, and other Hereditaments in charge of Colonel Kingscote, &c.—continued.

COUNTY.	Parish or Place.	Class.	Hereditaments.	Acreage.	Rents, &c., Received in 1888-89.	OBSERVATIONS.
				A. R. P.	£. s. d.	
CORNWALL	St. Just, &c.	4	Mines under the sea (royalties)	—	1,107 16 9	
CUMBERLAND	Harrington, &c.	4	Collieries under the sea (royalties)	—	714 15 6	
DEVON	Northam, &c.	4	Shingle, &c. (royalties)	—	— 8 —	
		5	Foreshore rents	—	18 1 —	
	Plymouth	5	Citadel slopes used as a public recreation ground, and site for a marine biological laboratory	29 0 5	80 — —	
					98 9 —	
DORSET	Lyme Regis	5	Foreshore	—	1 — —	
	Portland	1	Farms and land	248 2 20	279 — —	
		2	Land let for building, with 11 houses thereon	1 1 20	23 — —	
		4	Stone raised from quarries on the demesne, and taken from foreshore (royalty)	—	1,026 8 5	
		5	Piers, wharves, encroachments, &c.	—	522 8 6½	
		6	Manor of Portland, quit-rents, &c.	—	15 11 9	
					1,968 8 8½	
DURHAM	Bishop's Auckland	4	Colliery at Luntun Hill (royalty)	—	609 — —	One moiety of all profits derived from foreshores in or adjacent to the county of Durham is payable to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, under the Durham Foreshore Jurisdiction Act, 1853.
	Berwick	4	Sea sand, &c. (royalty)	—	8 17 8	
	Obopwell	1	Meadow land	8 0 20	9 — —	
		2	House, and land, and cottages	7 3 11	32 16 —	
		3	Land for cottage, sites, &c.	7 3 21	15 15 9	
		4	Colliery and stone quarries (royalty)	—	2,901 9 6	
		5	Sporting and grazing over woods, and other miscellaneous hereditaments	—	55 7 —	
		7	Thinnings of woods	871 3 28	12 18 —	
	Ryhope, &c.	4	Collieries under the sea (royalty)	—	5,029 1 7	
	River Tees Mouth	4	Salt under land now, or formerly below high water mark (royalty)	—	780 — —	
		5	Foreshore rents	—	253 17 5	
					8,969 2 5	
ESSEX	Barking	1	Farms and land	2,940 2 6	5,336 15 6	
	Dagenham, &c.	2	Seven houses	70 0 19	817 10 —	
		4	Gravel (royalty)	—	111 19 6	
		5	Rent-charges, &c.	—	8 10 —	
		6	Manor of Battleshall, quit-rents, &c.	—	3 15 11½	
	Bowers Gifford	1	Farm	225 0 24	100 — —	
	Foulness, &c.	5	Oyster beds and foreshores	—	125 — —	
	Harwich	2	Houses, buildings, and premises which have been occupied, and may be again required for naval and military purposes	13 3 1	236 3 11	
		5	Foreshore rents	—	25 1 —	
					6,364 15 10½	

STATEMENT of all Manors, Messuages, Land, and other Hereditaments in charge of Colonel Kingscote, &c.—continued.

COUNTY.	Parish or Place.	Class.	Hereditaments.	Acreage.	Rents, &c., Received in 1888-89.	OBSERVATIONS.	
GLOUCESTER . .	Bristol	2	A warehouse - - - - (Part only let, the remainder being in hand.)	A. R. P. —	£. s. d. 23 10 -		
	Hagloe	1	Farms and land - - - -	752 1 27	724 5 8		
		2	Two houses - - - -	2 2 17	56 5 6		
		5	Site of part of the Forest of Dean Central Railway Com- pany, &c. - - - -	2 2 33½	—		
	Prestbury	2	House and cottage - - - -	2 0 2	186 - -		
					961 1 2		
HANTS	Carisbrooke	1	Lands adjacent to the Castle	22 1 15	47 1 -		Sold as from 26th March 1888.
	Sandown	2	Part of the Castle - - - -	—	17 - -		
		1	Part of site of Old Fort - -	7 0 0	18 - -		
		2	Coast Guard Station - - - -	—	- 1 -		
	West Cowes	2	West Cowes Castle, &c. - -	—	225 - -		
	Various parts of the county.	4	Shingle (royalty) - - - -	—	20 - -		
5		Foreshores, &c. - - - -	—	41 18 -			
			264 - -				
HERTFORD . . .	Hitchin	6	Manor of Hitchin Portman and Foreign quit-rents, &c.	—	87 6 6½		
HUNTS	Great Staughton	1	Farms and land - - - -	1,068 2 31	827 7 5		
KENT	Dover	2	Land and a lodge - - - -	1 2 23	40 - -		
		3	Land let for building; 276 houses, with some stables and workshops, have been built by the lessees - - - -	—	1,400 19 7		
	Hitham	1	Farms and land - - - -	1,580 1 25	2,206 6 1		
		2	Eighteen houses, land, &c. -	226 2 30	2,261 14 6		
		3	Land let for building; 487 houses, with some stables, &c., have been built by the lessees - - - -	226 3 25	5,608 5 -		
		5	Various hereditaments - - -	—	10 12 -		
		6	Manor of Hitham, quit-rents, &c. - - - -	—	4 19 4½		
		7	Underwood and thinnings -	229 1 16	41 - -		
	Greenwich	2	Two houses - - - -	—	225 - -		
		5	Land on Blackheath - - -	—	- 10 -		
	Sheppy Isle of	1	Farms and land - - - -	2,161 2 5	2,890 - -		
		1	Farm and land, lately in hand	324 2 14	—		
	Various parts of the county.	5	Foreshores, &c. - - - -	—	156 5 -		
			15,640 12 6½				
LANCASTER . . .	Aldingham, &c. . . .	1	Farms and land - - - -	1,226 2 24	1,675 11 2		
		4	Manors of Muchland and Torver; iron ore, limestone, &c., in the copyholds and wastes - - - -	—	1,203 15 2		
		6	Quit-rents, &c. - - - -	—	120 16 1		
		7	Coppice wood, in hand - -	61 1 0	—		
			2,000 2 5				
LEICESTER . . .	Stanton-under-Bardon	5	Lands - - - -	—	- - 5		

The net excess of receipts during the year over the expenditure on farms in hand is given separately in the Abstract at end. This farm has been re-let.

STATEMENT of all Manors, Messuages, Land, and other Hereditaments in charge of Colonel Kingscote, &c.—continued.

COUNTY.	Parish or Place.	Class.	Hereditaments.	Acres.	Rents, &c., Received in 1888-89.	OBSERVATIONS.
LINCOLN	Billingborough	1	Farms and lands	A. R. P. 4,017 2 18	£. s. d. 5,410 2 -	The net excess of receipts during the year over the expenditure on farms and land in hand is given separately in the Abstract at end.
	Croft	1	Farms and land	211 1 3½	298 4 2	
	Gedney, Holbeach, Whaplode, and Moulton	1	Farms and land	4,630 3 26	6,066 1 6	
	Ingleby	1	Farms and land	671 1 13	625 - -	
	Wingland	1	Farms and land	2,847 1 23	4,645 4 4	
		1	Land in hand	357 0 25	—	
	New Holland, &c.	5	Ferry from Hull to New Holland, held by the Manchester, Sheffield, &c. Railway, and other hereditaments	—	215 - -	
					17,269 12 -	
MIDDLESEX	City of London	2	Eighteen houses	—	535 17 -	£. 200., the rent of 14 houses in Curtain-road and Union-court, which escheated to the Crown, are paid to the widow.
		3	Land let for building with 115 houses thereon, built by the lessees	—	41,590 12 -	
	Hampton Court	5	Garden ground	—	190 - -	The leases will expire, part in 1942 and 1943, and part in 1949.
		2	Ten houses	—	411 - -	
		3	Land let for building with four houses erected as above	—	175 - -	The leases will expire in 1942.
		5	Various hereditaments	—	39 10 -	
		6	Manor of Hampton Court, quit-rents and fines	—	684 - 3½	The leases will expire for the most part about 1925.
	Kensington	2	Two houses	—	155 - -	
		3	Land let for building with 65 houses, and some stabling, &c., built by the lessees	—	4,412 2 7	The leases will expire in 1942.
	Millbank	3	Land let for building with 401 houses, and some stabling &c., built by the lessees	—	2,042 8 -	
	New Oxford-street	3	Land let for building with 80 houses, and some stabling, &c., built by the lessees	—	5,219 5 7	The leases will expire in 1942.
	Victoria Park	3	Land let for building with 650 houses, and some stabling, &c., built by the lessees	—	2,122 1 6	
	Regent-street, Regent's Park, Strand, and other parts of London.	3	Land let for building with 2,938 houses, and some stabling, &c., built by the lessees	—	144,926 2 5	The leases will expire at various periods, for the most part about 1920.
	Various parts of London	2	Two hundred and seventy-one houses	—	45,645 3 8	
	Ditto	5	Gardens and other miscellaneous hereditaments	—	1,502 4 2	The leases will expire at various periods. The receipts include fines amounting to 2,644 l. taken on the renewal of those leases.
	Rolls Estate	2	One house	—	155 - -	
		3	Land let for building with three houses thereon, built by the lessees	—	1,216 5 -	These sums were received in pursuance of the Thames Conservancy Acts, 1867, 1867, and 1879.
		5	Miscellaneous hereditaments	—	6 - -	
	Savoy Estate	5	Proportion of rents received by the Duchy of Lancaster for various premises	—	407 2 4	These sums were received in pursuance of the Thames Conservancy Acts, 1867, 1867, and 1879.
	Thames River	4	Composition (per Act 30 Vict. c. 101), in lieu of proportion of proceeds derived from ballast dredged from the river	—	500 - -	
					2,146 16 7	
					256,091 12 1½	
NORFOLK	Deopham	1	Farms and land	174 1 11	150 - -	
	Stoke Ferry	5	Tithe rent-charge, &c.	—	182 1 3	
	West Walton	1	Farm land	21 0 16	30 - -	
					362 1 3	

STATEMENT of all Manors, Messuages, Land, and other Hereditaments in charge of Colonel Kingscote, &c.—continued.

COUNTY.	Parish or Place.	Class.	Hereditaments.	Acreage.	Rents, &c. Received in 1888-89.	OBSERVATIONS.
				A. R. P.	£. s. d.	
NORTHAMPTON	Haleborough - - -	5	Cottage and garden, and shooting over woodlands, &c. - - -	489 0 0	61 - -	The net excess of receipts during the year over the expenditure on farms and land in hand is given separately in the Abstract at end. This farm has been relet.
		7	Timber and thinnings - -	—	648 - -	
	Salcey - - -	1	Farms and lands - - -	282 2 4	536 15 3	
		2	House and land - - -	14 0 1	57 11 4	
		7	Timber and underwood -	1,246 2 18	1,890 6 -	
					2,163 12 7	
	Passenham - - -	1	Farm lately in hand - -	264 2 29	—	
NORTHUMBERLAND	Berwick - - -	5	Part of the ramparts - -	—	1 11 -	
	North Seaton - - -	4	Collieries under the sea (royalty) - - -	—	2,430 17 7	
					2,632 8 7	
	Holy Island - - -	5	In hand. The ruins of Lindisfarne Priory.			
NOTTINGHAM	Balderton - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	268 1 10	289 8 3	The net excess of receipts during the year over the expenditure on farms in hand is given separately in the Abstract at end.
	Newark - - -	5	Castle grounds - - -	—	25 13 6	
					215 1 9	
OXFORD	Stowood - - -	1	Farms - - -	562 2 21	484 - -	
		7	Timber and underwood -	—	40 - -	
	Whichwood - - -	1	Farms and lands - - -	2,674 0 9	2,062 14 4	
		1	Farm in hand - - -	489 2 29	—	
		2	Two houses - - -	—	6 - -	
		4	Brickfields, &c. (royalty) -	20 2 21	16 10 9	
		7	Timber and underwood -	—	27 10 -	
					2,646 15 1	
SUFFOLK	Shimpling - - -	1	A farm - - -	572 0 21	266 2 6	The net excess of receipts during the year over the expenditure on farms in hand is given separately in the Abstract at end.
	Lowestoft - - -	5	Foreshores - - -	—	5 2 6	
					271 5 -	
SURREY	Bagshot - - -	1	Farm near Bagshot Park -	67 2 2	98 10 -	
		2	Land let for building with a house erected by the lessee -	16 0 25	29 - -	
	Esher - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	877 2 15	1,154 1 -	
		2	A house and cottage - -	24 2 20	228 - -	
		2	Building land - - -	6 1 9	7 - -	
		5	Sperting over plantations, &c. -	—	129 5 -	
		7	Underwood, thinnings, &c. -	844 2 14	1,161 11 7	
	Camberwell - - -	2	Nine houses - - -	—	28 5 -	
	Egham - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	862 2 9	1,167 14 4	
		2	One house - - -	1 1 19	20 - -	
		2	Land let for building, with 16 houses erected by the lessees - - -	241 1 21	1,600 17 6	
		2	Various hereditaments - -	—	7 4 -	
		6	Manor of Egham, quit-rents, &c. - - -	—	4 12 11½	
		7	Timber and underwood -	—	296 15 -	
	Richmond - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	279 2 6	1,121 4 5	
		2	Eighteen houses - - -	—	1,064 2 4	
		2	Land let for building, with 279 houses erected by the lessees - - -	15 1 9	1,163 - 7	
		5	Various hereditaments - -	22 2 22	129 14 6	
		6	Manor of Richmond. Quit-rents and fines - - -	—	222 4 4	
	Southwark - - -	2	Land let for building, with seven houses erected by the lessees - - -	—	678 10 -	
	Sudbrook - - -	1	Land near Richmond Park -	77 2 17	250 4 -	
		2	A house and six cottages near Richmond Park - - -	22 1 19	510 - -	
	Various parts of the county.	5	Foreshores, &c. - - -	—	19 9 -	
					11,279 6 6½	

STATEMENT of all Manors, Messuages, Land, and other Hereditaments in charge of Colonel Kingscote, &c.—continued.

COUNTY.	Parish or Place.	Class.	Hereditaments.	Acreage.	Rents, &c., Received in 1888-89.	OBSERVATIONS.
SUSSEX	Brighton, Felpham, &c.	4	Shingle (royalty) - - -	A. R. P. —	£. s. d. 44 17 6	
		5	Foreshore - - - -	—	49 5 -	
	Handcross - - -	5	A cottage and land - -	2 0 0	- 5 -	The property escheated to the Crown, and has been granted to a man and his wife, servants to the deceased owner, for their lives, there being reason to believe that the latter had intended to give them some interest in the property.
	Hastings - - -	3	The sites of Carlisle Parade, Robertson-terrace, &c., let for building; 93 houses with some stabling, &c., have been built by the lessees - -	—	486 - -	
	Poynings - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	3,498 2 19	2,777 6 1	The leases of these houses will expire in 1948.
		2	One cottage - - - -	—	8 - -	
		3	Building land - - -	2 0 0	10 - -	
		5	License - - - - -	—	- 3 6	
		6	Manors of Poynings, &c., quit-rents and fines - - -	—	150 17 9½	
		7	Timber and underwood - -	61 0 0	287 9 4	
					2,794 4 2½	
WILTSHIRE	Bishops Canning, Bromham, &c.	1	Farms and land - - -	8,635 2 32	5,412 19 3	
		2	Thirty-three houses, cottages, &c. - - - - -	112 0 0	582 17 5	
		4	Stone, chalk, &c. (royalty) -	—	22 8 3	
		5	Leaseholds and copyholds for lives, rent charge, &c. -	—	8 15 6½	
		6	Manor of Canning. Quit-rents - - - - -	—	10 5 6½	
		7	Underwood and thinnings -	15 1 30	45 18 8	
					6,083 4 8	
WORCESTERSHIRE	Wyre Forest - - -	1	Land - - - - -	0 3 0	- 10 -	
YORKSHIRE	Aclome - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	474 1 9	348 5 -	
	Benningholme - - -	1	Ditto - - - - -	4,662 1 26	5,011 1 4	
	Dowthorpe, Meux, and Swine - - -	5	Tithe rent charge - - -	—	24 3 9	
		7	Plantations (in hand) - -	9 0 28	—	
	Dishforth - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	466 1 33	543 2 7	
	Great Driffield - - -	1	Land - - - - -	9 3 30	35 - -	
		2	House and garden - - -	0 0 13	14 8 6	
	Humberton, Ellisthorpe, and Thornton Briggs - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	2,878 1 26	4,106 13 1	
	Hodroyd - - -	4	Coal (royalty) - - -	—	250 - -	
	Hutton Low Cross - -	4	Ironstone, &c. (royalty) -	—	300 - -	
	Hull - - -	2	Warehouse - - - -	—	272 4 -	
	Kirkstatham - - -	4	Minerals under land, now or formerly below high water -	—	—	
	Northstead - - -	1	Farms, market gardens, &c. -	501 2 8	1,530 - -	Legal proceedings are pending in reference to this letting.
	Ryhill - - -	1	Farm - - - - -	82 0 29	60 - -	
		4	Colliery (royalty) - - -	—	150 - -	
	Scarborough - - -	5	The Castle Dykes and Holmes -	23 1 0	50 - -	
	Skelton Cote - - -	1	Farm - - - - -	256 1 37	180 - 3	
	Sunk Island - - -	1	Farms and land - - -	6,589 3 30	9,861 18 10	
		3	Building land (Coast Guard) -	0 2 0	4 - -	
		5	Harbour dues, &c. - - -	—	8 4 8	
	Sutton on Derwent - -	1	Farm - - - - -	190 2 29	160 - -	
	Tees River, &c. - - -	4	Salt, &c., under land now or formerly below high water (royalty) - - - -	—	440 - -	
		5	Sites of piers and other fore-shore rents - - - -	—	279 11 4	
	Woodhouse Grange - -	1	Farms - - - - -	1,170 - 32	602 5 -	
		7	Plantations (in hand) - -	50 - 20	—	
	York - - -	1	Farm at Heworth - - -	113 - 6	300 - -	
		3	Land at Heworth let for building, with three houses erected by the lessees -	7 1 16	68 10 -	
	Various parts of the county.	5	Miscellaneous hereditaments -	—	1,041 3 4	
				TOTAL - - - £.	25,630 11 8	

SUMMARY.

COUNTY.	CLASS I.						CLASS II.						
	In hand.			Let to Tenants.			Number of Houses.	Receipts.					
	Acreage.			Acreage.		Receipts.							
	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
BEDFORD - - - -	323	3	36½	2,869	1	32½	2,174	9	8	—	—		
BERKS - - - -	—			904	2	29	1,631	16	5	15	225	10	-
BUCKS - - - -	—			297	1	23	574	8	4	—	—		
CAMBS - - - -	—			896	1	32	1,018	14	4	—	—		
CHESTER - - - -	—			2,460	-	16	4,334	-	8	12	215	1	4
CORNWALL - - - -	—			—			—			—	—		
CUMBERLAND - - - -	—			—			—			—	—		
DEVON - - - -	—			—			—			—	—		
DORSET - - - -	—			248	2	29	279	-	-	—	—		
DURHAM - - - -	—			8	-	29	9	-	-	2	32	16	-
ESSEX - - - -	—			4,176	-	-	5,436	15	6	8	553	13	11
GLO'STER - - - -	—			752	1	27	724	5	8	5	236	15	6
HANTS - - - -	—			29	1	15	60	1	-	3	242	1	-
HERTS - - - -	—			—			—			—	—		
HUNTS - - - -	—			1,058	2	31	827	7	5	—	—		
KENT - - - -	334	2	14	3,722	-	30	5,796	6	1	21	2,626	14	6
LANCASTER - - - -	—			1,226	2	24	1,675	11	2	—	—		
LEICESTER - - - -	—			—			—			—	—		
LINCOLN - - - -	357	-	25	12,378	2	8½	17,044	12	-	—	—		
MIDDLESEX - - - -	—			—			—			302	46,902	-	8
NORFOLK - - - -	—			195	1	27	180	-	-	—	—		
NORTHANTS - - - -	264	2	29	282	2	4	536	15	3	1	57	11	4
NORTHUMBERLAND - - - -	—			—			—			—	—		
NOTTS - - - -	—			363	1	10	289	8	3	—	—		
OXFORD - - - -	489	3	39	3,228	-	-	2,546	14	4	2	6	-	-
SUFFOLK - - - -	—			572	-	31	366	2	6	—	—		
SURREY - - - -	—			2,286	1	10	3,791	13	9	37	1,996	7	4
SUSSEX - - - -	—			3,698	2	19	2,777	6	1	1	8	-	-
WORCESTER - - - -	—			-	3	-	-	10	-	—	—		
WILTS - - - -	—			8,835	2	32	5,412	19	3	33	582	17	5
YORK - - - -	—			17,365	2	25	22,730	6	1	2	286	12	6
	1,770	1	23½	67,857	1	3½	80,218	3	9	444	53,972	1	6

ABSTRACT of the foregoing STATEMENT.

	Area.			Receipts 1898-9.		
	A.	R.	P.	£.	s.	d.
1. Agricultural land let to Tenants - - - - -	67,857	1	3½	80,218	3	9
Ditto - ditto in hand (net excess of receipts over expenditure during the year - - - - -)	1,770	1	23½	1,247	18	11
TOTAL - - - - -	69,627	2	27½	81,466	2	8
2. Houses (444) let at rack rents or at rack rents that have been fined down - - - - -				53,972	1	6
3. Land let for building purposes, 5,789 houses, &c., erected - - - - -				215,615	6	3
4. Mines, minerals, and substrata - - - - -				17,574	5	10
5. Miscellaneous property - - - - -				9,220	6	4
6. Manors, Quit Rents, Fines, &c. - - - - -				1,406	18	11
7. Timber, thinnings of Plantations, Underwood, &c. - - - - -				5,278	10	1
TOTAL RECEIPTS - - - - -				384,533	11	7

SUMMARY.

CLASS III.		CLASS IV.	CLASS V.	CLASS VI.	CLASS VII.	Total Receipts, excluding Farms, in hand.	COUNTY.
Number of Houses.	Receipts.	Mines.	Miscellaneous.	Manors.	Timber.		
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
—	—	17 10 —	— — 4	—	55 5 —	2,247 5 —	BEDFORD.
257	1,617 10 3	383 15 2	68 12 5	3 14 11	18 17 —	3,949 16 2	BERKS.
3	195 — —	—	2 10 —	—	—	771 18 4	BUCKS.
—	—	—	3 9 3	31 10 8½	—	1,053 14 3½	CAMBS.
—	—	43 14 6	306 17 —	6 1 8	772 19 6	5,678 14 8	CHESTER.
—	—	1,107 16 9	—	—	—	1,107 16 9	CORNWALL.
—	—	714 15 6	—	—	—	714 15 6	CUMBERLAND.
—	—	— 8 —	98 1 —	—	—	98 9 —	DEVON.
11	23 — —	1,026 8 5	524 8 6½	15 11 9	—	1,868 8 8½	DORSET.
—	15 15 3	8,589 8 9	309 4 5	—	12 18 —	8,969 2 5	DURHAM.
—	—	111 19 6	158 11 —	3 15 11½	—	6,264 15 10½	ESSEX.
—	—	—	—	—	—	961 1 2	GLO'STER.
—	—	20 — —	41 18 —	—	—	364 — —	HANTS.
—	—	—	—	37 6 6½	—	37 6 6½	HERTS.
—	—	—	—	—	—	827 7 5	HUNTS.
863	7,004 4 7	—	167 8 —	4 19 4½	41 — —	15,640 12 6½	KENT.
—	—	1,203 15 2	—	120 16 1	—	3,000 2 5	LANCASTER.
—	—	—	— 5 —	—	—	— — 5	LEICESTER.
—	—	—	215 — —	—	—	17,259 12 —	LINCOLN.
4,256	202,713 18 1	500 — —	5,291 13 1	684 — 3½	—	256,091 12 1½	MIDDLESEX.
—	—	—	182 1 3	—	—	362 1 3	NORFOLK.
—	—	—	61 — —	—	2,508 6 —	3,163 12 7	NORTHANTS.
—	—	2,630 17 7	1 11 —	—	—	2,632 8 7	NORTHUMBERLAND.
—	—	—	25 13 6	—	—	315 1 9	NOTTS.
—	—	16 10 9	—	—	77 10 —	2,646 15 1	OXFORD.
—	—	—	5 2 6	—	—	371 5 —	SUFFOLK.
303	3,499 8 1	—	295 12 6	337 18 3½	1,458 6 7	11,379 6 6½	SURREY.
93	476 — —	44 17 6	49 13 6	150 17 9½	287 9 4	3,794 4 2½	SUSSEX.
—	—	—	—	—	—	— 10 —	WORCESTER.
—	—	22 8 3	8 15 6½	10 5 6½	45 18 8	6,083 4 8	WILTS.
3	70 10 —	1,140 — —	1,403 3 1	—	—	25,630 11 8	YORK.
5,789	215,615 6 3	17,574 5 10	9,220 6 4	1,406 18 11	5,278 10 1	383,285 12 8	

APPENDIX, No. 6.

PAPER handed in by Mr. George Culley, June 1889.

RETURN of the NAMES, DUTIES, and REMUNERATION of PERSONS employed in the Administration of the DEPARTMENT of WOODS, FORESTS, and LAND REVENUES.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.		
			Rate.	Amount in Year to 31st March 1888.	
George Culley - -	Office of Woods, &c. -	Commissioner of Woods - -	1,200 £ - - -	£. s. d. 1,200 - -	
Colonel Kingscote, C.B. - -	- - ditto - -	- - ditto - ditto - -	1,200 £ - - -	1,200 - -	
John Russell Sowray - -	- - ditto - -	Principal clerks in the London office acting under the Commissioners, and exercising general supervision - - -	700 £. to 900 £., personal to this officer. 600 £. to 800 £. -	900 - -	
Frederick Hellard - -	- - ditto - -			642 11 11	
George Sackville Smythe.	Quit-Rent Office, Dublin	Senior clerk in charge of the Quit-Rent Office, Dublin, supervises the local collectors of the Land Revenue - - -	500 £. to 600 £., but this scale is personal to these officers.	600 - -	
Edward Jaques - -	Office of Woods, &c. -	Senior clerks in London taking part in the general supervision, and acting for the principal clerks in their absence - -		600 - -	
George Bennett - -	- - ditto - -			600 - -	
J. N. Higinbotham - -	- - ditto - -			450 - - Which includes 50 £. as personal allowance.	
Arthur Cottam - -	- - ditto - -	Assistant clerks having care of the detailed business connected with the Crown property.	300 £. to 400 £. -	400 - -	
E. H. Mudie - -	Quit-Rent Office, Dublin			400 - -	
J. M. Duncan - -	Office of Woods, &c. -			450 - - Which includes 50 £. as personal allowance.	
A. M. Hart - -	- - ditto - -			400 - -	
C. B. Stableforth - -	- - ditto - -			400 - -	
S. Fletcher - -	- - ditto - -			390 - -	
J. H. Scaife - -	- - ditto - -			324 19 0	
H. T. Round - -	- - ditto - -			324 6 2	
C. E. Howlett - -	- - ditto - -			250 - -	
W. H. More - -	- - ditto - -			250 - -	
M. Evans - -	- - ditto - -	Junior clerks acting under the assistants.	150 £. to 250 £. -	250 - -	
W. D. Ainger - -	- - ditto - -			169 14 7	
F. J. Wardale - -	- - ditto - -	A Lower Division clerk who assists the bookkeeper - -	80 £. to 200 £., but four have duty pay - - -	170 10 10	
James R. Maple - -	- - ditto - -			175 - -	
Alexander Mackenzie - -	- - ditto - -	Lower Division clerks, whose duties consist chiefly in the examination of accounts and rentals; despatching correspondence, and the general routine of the office - - -		150 - -	
W. Varian - -	- - ditto - -			135 - -	
E. G. Coney - -	- - ditto - -			110 - -	
H. Wells - -	- - ditto - -			86 4 0	
F. Lacey - -	- - ditto - -			80 - -	
J. V. Duggan - -	Quit-Rent Office, Dublin			101 5 -	

RETURN of the Names, Duties, and Remuneration of Persons employed, &c.—*continued.*

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount in Year to 31st March 1888.
				£. s. d.
Warner, Charles Higgins.	Office of Woods, &c.	Receiver general and cashier for the office generally; also receiver and collector of all Crown rents in the City of London and county of Middlesex, and of the rents and royalties from under sea mines in England and Wales.	900 <i>l.</i> , and 100 <i>l.</i> allowance for clerical assistance.	1,000 - -
W. O. Bartlett - -	- - ditto - -	Assistant to receiver general in the work above described, and acts in his absence.	300 <i>l.</i> to 400 <i>l.</i> -	400 - -
E. Burrough - -	- - ditto - -	Book-keeper and accountant -	400 <i>l.</i> to 600 <i>l.</i> -	600 - -
H. Winney - -	- - ditto - -	Drawing clerk - - - -	130 <i>l.</i> to 180 <i>l.</i> -	134 11 2
F. M. Atkins - -	- - ditto - -	Surveyor's clerk - - - -	Commenced at 8 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per diem, afterwards maximum raised to 200 <i>l.</i> per annum.	196 - 10
Died since 31st March 1888, and succeeded by F. T. Walker - -	- - ditto - -	- - ditto - - - -	2 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> week.	
W. J. Titterton and 10 other writers.	- - ditto - -	Writers or copyists - - -	Two are paid by the piece, the others at 10 <i>d.</i> or 1 <i>s.</i> per hour.	1,173 11 1
Thomas Day - -	Quit-Rent Office, Dublin	Writer or copyist - - -	3 <i>l.</i> per week - -	157 - -
Sir Warrington W. Smyth.	Museum of Geology, Jernyn-street.	Chief mineral inspector for the department.	800 <i>l.</i> - - - And travelling allowance at 6 <i>d.</i> per mile.	800 - - 61 7 3
T. Fagg - -	Office of Woods, &c.	Office-keeper - - - -	100 <i>l.</i> to 130 <i>l.</i> -	130 - -
W. Thomas - -	- - ditto - -	First messenger - - - -	100 <i>l.</i> - - -	100 - -
A. Alexander - -	- - ditto - -	Second messenger - - -	95 <i>l.</i> - - -	95 - -
J. T. Forward - -	- - ditto - -	Third messenger - - - -	90 <i>l.</i> - - -	90 - -
J. Jolliffe - -	- - ditto - -	Fourth messenger - - -	85 <i>l.</i> - - -	85 - -
Joseph J. Conolly	Quit-Rent Office, Dublin	Messenger - - - -	52 <i>l.</i> to 78 <i>l.</i> - -	67 5 7
Thomas W. Gorst -	Office of Woods, &c.	As solicitor, advises the Commissioners on all legal matters, and conducts legal proceedings in England and Wales, and performs the conveyancing business of the department.	1,200 <i>l.</i> to 1,500 <i>l.</i> , with an allowance for five clerks -	1,500 - - 1,272 8 4
H. G. Hewlett - -	Land Revenue Record Office, 6, Whitehall, S.W.	As Keeper of the Land Revenue Records, records all deeds and documents sent to his office for that purpose, places rents in charge with the receivers in England and Wales, and notifies such rents to the Comptroller and Auditor General, and acts as record agent for the department.	550 <i>l.</i> as salary, and certain fees guaranteed to reach 150 <i>l.</i>	830 1 11
E. H. Rhodes - -	- ditto - ditto -	Deputy Keeper of the Land Revenue.	250 <i>l.</i> to 400 <i>l.</i> , but present deputy rises to 500 <i>l.</i>	392 2 - Which is less than the normal salary, the officer being absent from illness.
W. T. Green - -	- ditto ditto -	Clerk at the Land Revenue Record Office.	100 <i>l.</i> to 200 <i>l.</i> -	300 - - Which included an allowance of 100 <i>l.</i> for acting in absence of the Deputy Keeper.
T. Fairfax - -	- ditto - ditto -	Messenger at the Land Revenue Record Office.	60 <i>l.</i> to 90 <i>l.</i> - -	87 18 - A broken period.
W. Young and two other writers.	- ditto - ditto -	These writers are engaged in copying.	10 <i>d.</i> or 1 <i>s.</i> per hour	272 7 7

Note.—Door porter, housemaids, and charwomen, are not included in the above.

NEW FOREST, ALICE HOLT FOREST, BERE, WOOLMER, AND PARKHURST WOODS.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount for Year to 31st March 1888.
Lascelles, the Hon. Gerald William.	Queen's House, Lyndhurst, Hants.	Deputy Surveyor and Steward of the Manor of Lyndhurst. Mr. Lascelles has the local charge and management of the plantations and woodlands and open forest, and of the sales of produce, and he advises the Commissioner as to the letting of the Crown's freehold property within the forest and woods, and all matters referred to him.	As Deputy Surveyor of New Forest:	£. s. d.
			Salary - - - 500 - -	500 - -
			Allowance for three horses - - - 120 - -	120 - -
			House and land, valued at - - - 80 - -	80 - -
			Coal - - - 50 - -	50 - -
			Fern, valued at - - - 10 - -	- 10 -
			Services of a labourer 45 12 6	45 12 6
			Five percent. on smoke pence collected - - -	- - 4
			As Deputy Surveyor of Alice Holt Forest, Bere and Parkhurst Woods, and the Woolmer Estate:	
			Salary - - - 180 - -	180 - -
Roberts, James Harold.	Ashurst Lodge, Lyndhurst, Hants.	First Assistant to the Deputy Surveyor of New Forest in charge of East District and Shave Green and Brockis Hill Enclosures, with the surrounding district. Is responsible to the Deputy Surveyor for the proper supervision of his district, and has to see that the keepers, woodmen, and labourers properly perform their duties; he has also to assist the Deputy Surveyor in carrying out of any works in his district, measuring up timber and piece work. The first assistant acts for the Deputy Surveyor in his absence.	Allowance in lieu of travelling and subsistence expenses - 70 - -	70 - -
			Bere Woods:	
			Fuel-wood, valued at - 2 8 -	2 8 -
			Parkhurst Woods:	
			Allowance when visiting Parkhurst, 10s. per day, or 15s. if the night is spent there - - -	- 10 -
				1,049 - 10
			Salary - - - 150 - -	
			Allowance for two horses 60 - -	
			House and land, valued at - - - 30 - -	
			Fern, valued at - - - 10 - -	
Dixon, John Henry	Seamans Lodge, Minstead, Hants.	Second Assistant, in charge of North District. Similar duties to those of the first assistant.	Turf, valued at - - - 3 - -	243 10 -
			Salary - - - 120 - -	
			House and land, valued at - - - 28 - -	
			Allowance for horse - 30 - -	
			Fern, valued at - - - 10 - -	
			Turf, valued at - - - 3 - -	
				179 10 -
			Salary - - - 120 - -	
			House and land, valued at - - - 24 - -	
			Allowance for horse - 30 - -	
Holloway, Ernest.	Holmaley Lodge, Ringwood, Hants.	Third Assistant, in charge of West District. Similar duties to those of the first assistant.	Fern, valued at - - - 10 - -	
			Turf, valued at - - - 3 - -	
				177 10 -

New Forest, Alice Holt Forest, Bere, Woolmer, and Parkhurst Woods—*continued.*

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount for Year to 31st March 1888.
Grace, Arthur George	Lyndhurst, Hants.	Clerk to the Deputy Surveyor	Salary - - - £. s. d. (Increased to 130 <i>l.</i> from 1st January 1889).	£. s. d. 120 - -
Coles, James	Wilverly Lodge	Keeper of Rhinefield, Holmesley, and Wilverly Walks. To protect all timber, fences, and plantations in the walks in his charge; to see that no persons remove turf, gravel, wood, or other produce without proper authority to do so; to perambulate the whole of his district periodically and report any cases of trespass or encroachment; in the spring, to keep a careful watch for fires, to preserve the game and rare birds, to collect forest dues. (Since dead.)	Salary - - - 80 - - House and land, valued at - - - 20 - - Fern - - - 10 - - Turf - - - 3 - -	73 6 8 20 - - 10 - - 3 - - 96 16 8
Slightam, John	- - - ditto	Ditto (successor to Coles)	Salary - - - 65 - - (Emoluments same.)	-
Bumstead, John	Denny Lodge	Keeper of Denny, Whitley Ridge, and Lady Cross Walks. Similar duties to the foregoing.	Salary - - - 80 - - House and land, valued at - - - 24 - - Fern - - - 10 - - Turf - - - 3 - -	107 10
Bumstead, George	Ashley Lodge	Keeper of Ashley, Broomy, Bramble Hill, and Eyeworth Walks. Similar duties to the foregoing.	Salary - - - 80 - - House and land - - - 23 - - Fern - - - 10 - - Turf - - - 3 - -	106 10 -
Lane, Francis	Bolderwood Lodge	Keeper of Bolderwood, Burley, and part of Broomy Walks. Similar duties to the foregoing.	Salary - - - 65 - - House, valued at - - - 7 - - Fern - - - 10 - - Turf - - - 3 - -	75 10 -
Wilkins, John	Ironshill Lodge	Keeper of Ironshill, Ashurst, and Castlewalwood Walks. Similar duties to the foregoing.	Salary - - - 80 - - House and land - - - 24 - - Fern - - - 10 - - Turf - - - 3 - -	107 10 -
Twelve woodmen	Various cottages throughout the forest.	Each woodman has a certain area under his care; he overlooks the labourers who are employed there, sees that the plantations, fences, and drains are kept in proper order, that the gates of inclosures are kept locked, and is responsible for the produce in his district.	Wages 17 <i>s.</i> per week - - - Fern and turf - - - 1 17 6 Cottage and land, valued at 5 <i>l.</i> per year (except in one instance, where they are valued at 10 <i>l.</i> per annum) - - -	621 6 -
Lintott, George	Goosegreen Cottage, Alice Holt Woods.	Foreman in charge of Alice Holt Woods.	Wages 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per day - 54 19 - House and land - - - 10 - - Fuel-wood - - - 4 16 - Grass - - - 6 - - Fern - - - 8 - -	70 9 -
Fallick, Edward	- - -	Woodman in charge of Woolmer	Wages 19 <i>s.</i> per week - - -	49 14 4
Broomfield, John	Wood End Cottage, Bere Woods.	Foreman in charge of Bere Woods.	Salary - - - 54 12 - Cottage and land - - - 15 - - Fuel-wood - - - 3 12 - Fern - - - 8 - - Horse-keep - - - 30 - -	109 12 -
Charles Merritt	- - -	Woodman in charge of Bulls Lodge Inclosure. (Since dead.)	Wages 14 <i>s.</i> per week - 36 8 - Cottage and land - - - 4 10 - Fuel-wood - - - 1 16 - Fern - - - 6 - -	43 - -
Tarrant, George	- - -	- ditto (successor to Merritt)	- - - ditto - - -	-
Gulliver, Thomas	Parkhurst, Isle of Wight.	Foreman in charge of Parkhurst.	Salary - - - 52 - - Allowance for house-rent - - - *18 - - Fuel - - - † 3 12 -	73 12 -

* This is an allowance pending the building of a new lodge.

† The foreman is also entitled to grass and fern to the value of 14*s.*, which he did not claim in 1888.

DEAN FOREST AND HIGHMEADOW WOODS.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount for Year to 31st March 1888.
Sir James Campbell, bart.	Whitmead Park, Coleford, Gloucester.	Deputy Surveyor and Receiver of the Crown's Surface Rents (including Quarries), and Steward of the Manors of St. Briavels, Newland, Stanton, and English Bicknor. As Deputy Surveyor, Sir James Campbell has the local charge and management of the forest and woodlands, lands, houses, and quarries, including the management of the plantations and woods, the negotiating of sales of produce therefrom, the protection of the open forest from encroachment, and advising the Commissioner as to the letting of the surface. As Receiver, he collects the Crown's rents issuing out of lands, houses, and quarries of clay, sand, and stone, &c.	As Deputy Surveyor: £. s. d. Salary - - - 400 - - House and land, valued at - - 119 10 - Allowance for two horses - - 80 - - Railway inspector - 54 12 - Fuel, cash allowed - 20 - - Fern, valued at - 1 - - Services of a labourer - - 41 12 - Rates, taxes, &c.* - 14 - - As Receiver and Steward: Salary - - - 150 - -	£. s. d. 400 - - 119 10 - 80 - - 54 12 - 20 - - 1 - - 41 12 - - - - 137 12 8 854 6 8
James Ward	Coleford	Assistant to the Deputy Surveyor in the general execution of his duties in Dean Forest and Highmeadow Woods, and acts for him in his absence. He effects sales of produce under instructions, sees that the regular works are properly carried out, superintends the keepers, woodmen, and labourers, pays wages, and renders accounts to the Deputy Surveyor of his receipts and disbursements (since retired).	Salary - - - 150 - - Services of a labourer 41 12 - Inspector of railways 54 12 - House-rent - - 60 - - Fuel - - - 6 - - Fern - - - 1 - - Horse allowance - 80 - - Grass - - - 10 - -	403 4 -
Charles E. Machen	Eastbach Court	- ditto (successor to Mr. Ward)	- ditto - - ditto - -	-
Marmaduke Laver	Perch Lodge	Wood foreman; acts as clerk to Sir James Campbell, and in addition assists him generally out of doors.	Salary - - - 71 10 - House and land, valued at - - 7 - - Fuel - - - 3 - -	81 10 -
James Johnson	Bromley Lodge	Wood foreman; acts in same capacity to Mr. Machen, and assists him in measuring timber and other produce for sale.	Salary - - - 65 - - House and land, valued at - - 7 - - Fuel - - - 3 - -	75 - -
John Jones	Danby Lodge	Keeper and caretaker of Danby and Speech House Walks. To protect all timber, fences, and plantations in the walks in his charge. To see no person removes turf, gravel, wood, or other produce without proper authority to do so. To perambulate the whole of his district periodically, and report any cases of trespass or encroachment. To keep in the spring a careful watch for fires (since retired).	Salary - - - 70 - - House and land, valued at - - 25 10 - Fuel and fern - - 4 - -	99 10 -
W. H. Morris	- ditto	- ditto (successor to J. Jones)	- ditto - - ditto - -	-
William Christie	Herbert Lodge	Keeper and caretaker of Latimer and Herbert Walks. Similar duties to the foregoing.	Salary - - - 70 - - House and land, valued at - - 28 10 - Fuel and fern - - 4 - -	102 10 -
John Gaudern	Worcester Lodge	Keeper and caretaker of York and Worcester Walks. Similar duties to the foregoing.	Salary - - - 70 - - House and land, valued at - - 25 10 - Fuel and fern - - 4 - -	99 10 -
Eighteen woodmen (four of whom are in Highmeadow Woods).	Various lodges throughout the Forest and Highmeadow.	Each woodman superintends a district under the keeper, and has the care of the timber and produce therein, and the overlooking of the labourers employed.	Salary - - - 44 4 - Fuel - - - 3 - - Grass - - - 2 - - Fern - - - 15 - -	1,006 7 -
			And a house and land in each case, the value of which varies from 5 l. to 8 l. a year.	

* This allowance is not drawn now.

Dean Forest and Highmeadow Woods—*continued.*

NAME	ADDRESS	DUTIES	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount for Year to 31st March 1888.
Thomas Forster Brown.	Guildhall Chambers, Cardiff, and Crown Offices, Coleford, Gloucestershire.	Deputy Gaveller and Registrar in Dean Forest and the Hundred of St. Briavels, and receiver of the rents and royalties of coal and iron mines therein, and in the Highmeadow Estate, and is mineral agent for the latter. As Deputy Gaveller, Mr. Brown acts as the Crown's mine agent, and has the local supervision and management of its mineral property. As Registrar under the direction of the solicitor to the Office of Woods, he records all transfers, assignments, &c., affecting gales of iron, coal, stone, &c., in the register kept for that purpose. As Receiver he collects the rents and royalties issuing out of gales of coal and iron.	<p>£. s. d.</p> <p>As Deputy Gaveller and Registrar:</p> <p>Salary - - - 550 - -</p> <p>Allowance for clerks 202 10 -</p> <p>Allowance for travelling - - 50 - -</p> <p>Commission as Highmeadow mineral agent on rents collected in the year 1886-87; 5 per cent. on amount collected 23 6 4</p> <p>This allowance has now ceased, being merged in his salary as Receiver.</p> <p>As Receiver:</p> <p>Salary, 385 £. per annum - -</p> <p>£.</p>	<p>£. s. d.</p> <p>550 - -</p> <p>202 10 -</p> <p>50 - -</p> <p>23 6 4</p> <p>385 5 4</p> <p>1,179 1 8</p>

WINDSOR FORESTS, PARKS, and WOODS.—Establishment of the Deputy Surveyor.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount paid for Year to 31st March 1888.
Frederick Simmonds	Parkside, Englefield Green, Surrey.	Deputy Surveyor of Windsor Parks and Woods. He has the superintendence of the timber, roads, fences, and watercourses over an area of about 14,000 acres, and the lodges, buildings, &c., in the Great Park and at Ascot and Bagshot. He also collects rents and royalties amounting to about 2,800 £. per annum.	<p>£. s. d.</p> <p>Salary per annum - 500 - -</p> <p>Allowance for clerical assistance - 70 - -</p> <p>Horse keep - - 120 - -</p> <p>And the following allowances estimated at per annum:</p> <p>£. s. d.</p> <p>House and land - 60 - -</p> <p>Fuel-wood - - 25 - -</p> <p>Man servant - - 57 4 -</p> <p>Rates and taxes - 8 8 -</p>	<p>£. s. d.</p> <p>690 - -</p> <p>150 12 -</p>
George Street	Windsor Great Park	Clerk of the Works - - - Has the superintendence of the workmen employed in the maintenance of the lodges, buildings, &c., mentioned above.	<p>130 £. per annum, with an annual increment of 5 £. to 230 £.</p> <p>Horse keep - - - -</p> <p>And the following allowances valued at per annum:</p> <p>£. s. d.</p> <p>House and land - 36 - -</p> <p>Man servant - - 45 10 -</p> <p>Rates and taxes - 10 - -</p> <p>Coals for office fire - - -</p>	<p>218 15 -</p> <p>45 - -</p> <p>91 10 -</p>
Frederick Bartlett	Windsor Great Park	Foreman of the Park - - - Has the supervision of the men employed in the park, &c., under the Deputy Surveyor.	<p>110 £., increasing to 175 £. per annum - - - -</p> <p>And the following allowances valued at per annum:</p> <p>£. s. d.</p> <p>House and land - 30 - -</p> <p>Fuel and pasturage 17 10 -</p> <p>Wages of a lad - 18 4 -</p> <p>Rates and taxes - 4 10 -</p>	<p>175 - -</p> <p>70 4 -</p>

In addition to the above there is a staff of mechanics and others who are paid by weekly wages.

WINDSOR FORESTS, PARKS, and WOODS.—Establishment appointed by H. R. H. Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, K.G.,* Ranger, who is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen.
The Cost of this Establishment is borne by the Land Revenues.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount paid for Year to 31st March 1888.
Captain Walter Campbell.	Windsor Great Park, Holly Grove.	Deputy Ranger of Windsor Great Park. To take charge under the Ranger of the game, deer, fish, and other royalties; also of the cattle. To supervise the keepers and gates, and distribute the keys of the locked gates.	400 l. per annum - - - And allowances valued at per annum, as follows: £. s. d. House and land - 240 - - Rates and taxes - 20 - - Pasturage - 38 - - Fuel, &c. - 12 - -	£. s. d. 400 - - 310 - -
John Peel - -	Windsor Great Park -	Balliff of the Great Park - - To take the general management under the Deputy Ranger and keep the accounts.	200 l. per annum - - - Horse keep - - - And allowances valued at per annum, as follows: £. s. d. House and land - 25 - - Hay - 13 - - Man servant - 30 - - Rates, &c. - 4 - -	200 - - 10 - - 86 - -
Goss, Overton -	Windsor Great Park, Sandpit Gate.	Head Park and Game Keeper - To watch and protect the park preserves and plantations, to preserve and shoot the game, attend shooting parties, &c. He is required to provide and keep three horses and the necessary dogs.	300 l. per annum - - - Horse keep - - - Attendance at Ascot - - - And allowances as follows, estimated at per annum: £. s. d. House, &c. - 25 - - Pasturage - 20 - - Fuel - 10 - - Livery - 10 - - Rates, &c. - 4 - -	300 - - 40 - - 1 - - 69 - -
George Wheeler -	Windsor Great Park, Bishopsgate Lodge.	Second Park Keeper and Game Keeper. To watch and protect the park and deer and to kill the deer, and distribute the venison, and act under the Head Park Keeper. He is required to provide and keep two horses and the requisite dogs.	140 l. per annum - - - Attendance at Ascot 1 - - Horse keep - 10 - - For meadow - 7 - - And other allowances estimated at per annum, as follows: £. s. d. House, &c. - 20 - - Rates, &c. - 3 - - Livery - 10 - -	140 - - 18 - - 33 - -
George Orme -	Windsor Great Park, Double Lodge, Queen Anne's Gate.	Park Keeper - - - To watch and protect the park and deer.	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances per annum, valued as follows: £. s. d. House - 10 - - Livery - 10 - -	54 12 - - 20 - -
R. Nicholson -	Windsor Great Park, Stag Meadow Cottage.	- - ditto - - ditto - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances per annum, valued as follows: £. s. d. House - 10 - - Livery - 10 - -	54 12 - - 20 - -
James Foy - -	Windsor Great Park, World's End Gate.	Game Keeper - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, valued at per annum: £. s. d. House - 10 - - Livery - 10 - -	54 12 - - 20 - -
Charles Benn -	Windsor Great Park, Clock Case.	- - ditto - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, valued at per annum: £. s. d. House - 10 - - Livery - 10 - -	54 12 - - 20 - -

* Prince Christian occupies Cumberland Lodge as his official residence together with a kitchen garden in the park, and about 70 acres of land formerly part of Norfolk Farm. He has also fuel allowances valued at about 10 l. a year.

Windsor Forest, Parks, and Woods—*continued.*

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount paid for Year to 31st March 1888.
William Ruddle -	South Forest Cottage -	Gamekeeper - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, valued at per annum : £. s. d. House - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 10 - -	£. s. d. 54 12 - 20 - -
Arthur D. Lilley -	Windsor Great Park, Crump Hill Cottage.	- - ditto - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, valued at per annum : £. s. d. House - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 10 - -	54 12 - 20 - -
John Evans - - Died since 31st March 1888, and succeeded by	Windsor Great Park, Highstanding Hill.	- - ditto - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, valued at per annum : £. s. d. House - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 10 - -	54 12 - 20 - -
George Mason -	- - ditto - - -	- - ditto - - - -	- - ditto - - - -	-
W. Facey -	Rapley - - - -	- - ditto - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, valued at per annum : £. s. d. House - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 10 - -	54 12 - 20 - -
Thos. Foster -	Windsor Great Park, Blacknest.	Gatekeeper - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, estimated at per annum : £. s. d. Lodge - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 8 - -	54 12 - 18 - -
Henry Freaker -	Windsor Great Park, Long Walk.	- - ditto - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, estimated at per annum : £. s. d. Lodge - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 8 - -	54 12 - 18 - -
Joseph Steel -	Windsor Great Park, Forest Gate.	- - ditto - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, estimated at per annum : £. s. d. Lodge - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 8 - -	54 12 - 18 - -
John Hobbs -	Windsor Great Park, Cumberland Gate.	- - ditto - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, estimated at per annum : £. s. d. Lodge - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 8 - -	54 12 - 18 - -
William Green -	Windsor Great Park, Double Gates.	- - ditto - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, estimated at per annum : £. s. d. Lodge - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 8 - -	54 12 - 18 - -
Donald Gunn -	Windsor Great Park, Queen Anne's Gate.	- - ditto - - - -	54 l. 12 s. per annum - - And allowances as follows, estimated at per annum : £. s. d. Lodge - - - 10 - - Livery - - - 8 - -	54 12 - 18 - -
Alfred Cheesman -	Windsor Great Park, Bishopsgate.	Assistant Gatekeeper - -	1 s. 8 d. per day - - -	20 1 8

Windsor Forest, Parks, and Woods—*continued.*

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount paid for Year to 31st March 1888.
				£. s. d.
Ann Goodall - -	Windsor Great Park, Prince Consort's Gate.	Assistant Gatekeeper - -	2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per annum - -	2 10 -
Charlotte Hales - -	Windsor Great Park, Prince Consort's Gate.	Assistant Gatekeeper - -	2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per annum - -	2 10 -
John Templeman - -	Swinley - - -	Warrener; to keep down the rabbits.	54 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> per annum - - And allowances per annum, valued as follows: <div style="text-align: right;"> <i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i> House - - 12 - - Livery - - 10 - - </div>	54 12 - 23 - -
Thomas Wells - -	Windsor Great Park, Virginia Water Lodge.	Locksmith - - - -	60 <i>l.</i> per annum - - - Allowance for fuel - - - Ditto - horse-keep - - And allowances, valued at per annum, as follows: <div style="text-align: right;"> <i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i> House and land - 10 - - Hay - - 13 - - </div>	60 - - 17 - - 21 18 6 23 - -
Robert Osborne - -	Windsor Great Park, Flying Barn.	Fisherman. He provides a horse at his own expense.	54 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> per annum - - Allowance for fuel - - - Ditto - cow-keep - - And allowances as follows, valued at per annum: <div style="text-align: right;"> <i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i> House and land - 12 - - Hay - - 13 - - Livery - - 8 - - </div>	54 12 - 5 - - 8 - - 33 - -
W. Jones - - -	Windsor Great Park, Flying Barn.	Assistant Fisherman - -	- - - - -	49 8 -
John Patey - - -	Windsor Great Park, Moat Island Cottage.	Herdsmen - - - -	36 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per annum - - Allowance for fuel - - - Ditto - keep of cow - - And allowances, valued as follows: <div style="text-align: right;"> <i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i> House and garden 10 - - Livery - - 8 - - </div>	36 10 - 5 - - 8 - - 18 - -
R. Turner - - -	Windsor Great Park Belvidere Fort.	Bombardier - - - -	2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per day - - - And the estimated annual value of a house - - -	45 12 6 10 - -
The Venerable Archdeacon Baly.	"Treveltham," Englefield Green, Surrey.	Chaplain of the Royal Chapel in the Great Park.	180 <i>l.</i> per annum - - -	180 - -
Henry W. Davis - -	- - - -	Organist of the Royal Chapel in the Great Park.	40 <i>l.</i> per annum - - -	40 - -
Maria Higgs - - -	- - - -	Cleaner of the Royal Chapel in the Great Park.	7 <i>l.</i> per annum - - -	7 - -
Alfred Higgs - - -	- - - -	Organ Blower of the Royal Chapel in the Great Park.	2 <i>l.</i> per annum - - -	2 - -
William Higgs - - -	- - - -	Caretaker of the Royal Chapel in the Great Park.	7 <i>l.</i> per annum - - -	7 - -

ENGLAND.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount paid for Year to 31st March 1888.
				£. s. d.
John Clutton - -	9, Whitehall-place, S.W.	Receiver for Southern and Midland Counties, except Middlesex (and Windsor) and all fee farm and viscontiel and other dry and unimprovable rents. Mr. Clutton is also steward of various manors within the counties for which he is receiver, and in Middlesex. He also usually acts as Crown surveyor within the counties for which he is receiver.	A poundage of 4 per cent. on the sums collected, less certain items, and a salary of 42 l. a year, in addition to a similar poundage for the management of certain woods; also fees as surveyor, and fees in respect of the management of farms in hand. Remuneration as receiver - Remuneration as surveyor -	3,241 7 9 1,959 9 8
B. White - - -	*Isle of Portland - -	Local agent in connection with the stone quarries.	A poundage of 4 per cent. on royalties on stone dues.	63 16 1
W. White - - -	Stagsden, county Beds	Woodman and bailiff over the labourers' allotments at Stagsden.	45 l. per annum, of which 5 l. are for house-rent.	45 - -
W. Powney - - -	Bromham - - -	Bailiff over labourers' allotments, &c. at Bromham.	15 l. per annum - - -	15 - -
T. S. Lucas - - -	Bishops Canning - -	Bailiff over labourers' allotments, &c. at Bishops Canning.	10 l. per annum - - -	10 - -
James Walker - -	Egham, Surrey - -	Bailiff over labourers' allotments, &c. at Egham.	10 l. per annum - - -	10 - -
J. R. Jolley - - -	- - - - -	Steward of the manor of West Greenwich, Lee, &c.	Nil.	-
A. H. Estcourt - -	Newport, Isle of Wight	Steward of the Isle of Wight -	50 l. per annum - - -	50 - -
Thomas Gulliver -	Piddington Lodge, Salcey Forest, Horton, Northampton.	Woodman in charge of woods at Hazleborough and Salcey, county Northampton.	80 l. per annum - 80 - - Travelling expenses at 4 s. per week - 10 8 - A house and garden, valued at per annum - - 24 - - Rates and taxes - 3 8 4	90 8 - 27 8 4
Henry Almond - -	Oxshott, Surrey - -	Woodman in charge of woods at Esher, county Surrey.	65 l. per annum - - - A house and garden, valued at per annum - - 14 - - Rates and taxes - 3 19 5	65 - - 17 19 5
Edw Page - - -	Perching Farm, Poyning.	Woodman in charge of woods at Poyning, county Sussex.	10 l. per annum - - -	10 - -
Spencer W. Gore -	16, Whitehall - place, S.W.	Receiver for the Northern Counties of England, excepting in respect of the royalties derived from submarine and certain other minerals, and excepting all fee farm, viscontiel, and other dry and unimprovable rents. Mr. Gore is also steward of various manors, and usually acts as Crown surveyor within the counties for which he acts as receiver.	A poundage of 2½ per cent. upon the receipts from estates in the parishes of Sunk Island, Swine and Waghen, co. York, and from certain minerals which are under the inspection of Sir. W. Smyth and Messrs. J. and B. Simpson; a poundage of 4 per cent. upon the receipts from other estates, and a salary of 52 l. 10 s. a year in addition to a similar poundage for the management of Delamere Woods; also fees as surveyor. Remuneration as receiver - Remuneration as surveyor -	1,152 11 6 318 18 3

ENGLAND—continued.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount paid for Year to 31st March 1888.
T. Fell - - -	Aldingham, county Lancaster.	Caretaker of Seawood Coppice, Aldingham.	5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> a year - - -	£. s. d. 5 5 -
J. Spilman - - -	Sunk Island, county York.	Collector of harbour dues at Stone Creek, Sunk Island.	A poundage of 10 per cent. on the sums collected.	- 15 -
J. Cruden - - -	Berwick-upon-Tweed -	Collector of rents for encroachment on the ramparts at Berwick-upon-Tweed.	5 <i>s.</i> a year - - -	- 5 -
The Earl of Derby -	- - - -	Hereditary steward of the manor of Macclesfield.	Nil - - -	Nil.
Colonel Sir W. Crossman, bart., K.C.M.G.	Cheswick, Beal, Northumberland.	Caretaker of Lindisfarne Priory, Holy Island, county Durham. This officer is paid every four years.	5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> per annum - - -	Nil.
Messrs. Simpson -	Ryton-on-Tyne - - -	Check viewlers of the Crown Collieries at Chopwell Woods, county Durham.	42 <i>l.</i> per annum - - -	42 - -
E. J. Almond - - -	Delamere Woods, near Northwich.	In charge of the woods at Delamere.	3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per day - - - And a cottage of the estimated annual value of - - -	54 15 6 10 - -
G. Watson - - -	Chopwell Woods, county Durham.	In charge of the woods at Chopwell.	4 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per day - - - And a cottage of the estimated annual value of - - -	71 14 6 10 - -
Arthur Cates - - -	7, Whitehall-yard, S.W.	Surveyor of the Crown property in London; the rents of which are collected by Mr. W. C. Higgins, the receiver.	Mr. Cates is paid by bills under a scale of remuneration arranged at the time of his appointment.	2,058 16 9
J. Taylor - - -	The North Lodge, Kensington Palace-gardens.	Gatekeeper at Kensington Palace-gardens.	65 <i>l.</i> per annum - - - And a lodge estimated at, per annum, 18 <i>l.</i> ; livery, 5 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> one year - - - And 8 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> next.	65 - - 23 3 6
D. Hart - - -	The South Lodge, Kensington Palace-gardens.	- ditto - - ditto - -	65 <i>l.</i> per annum - - - With a lodge estimated at, per annum, 15 <i>l.</i> ; livery, 5 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> one year - - - And 8 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> next.	65 - - 20 3 6

W A L E S.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount Paid for Year to 31st March 1888.
William Wilkin	9, John-street, Adelphi, W.C.	Receiver of Crown rents in North and South Wales, and of tce farm rents in England. In addition to collecting the rents, he is required to make local inquiries, and to report upon all questions which arise in connection with the rents, lands, encroachments, foreshores, &c., within his receivership, and to advise as to mineral and other leases. He is also steward of certain Crown manors in Wales, the duties of which he discharges without extra emoluments.	2½ per cent. commission on : 1. All profits of mines. 2. On collection rents. 5 per cent. on all other rents. He is also allowed a commission on sales of Crown property. Commission on £. s. d. receipts - - 508 1 10 Allowance for clerk 100 - - Ditto travelling 75 - - Commission on sales - - 101 13 2	£. s. d. 779 15 -
Job Bowen *	Carnarvon - - -	Local mine agent for the counties of Anglesea, Denbigh, Carnarvon, and Merioneth. Is required to visit and inspect all the Crown mines in his district at least once a year, and when necessary, to attend and check the weighing or measuring of minerals raised and gotten, and to examine and certify the accounts furnished by lessees, licensees, &c. He also advises upon all applications for mineral leases, &c.	5 per cent. commission on all profits of mines. He also receives a stated allowance of 15 l. 12 s. for inspecting Crown mineral property.	355 14 11
Harry Alexander Cope *	Holywell, North Wales	Ditto for the county of Flint - ditto - ditto.	5 per cent. commission as above, and an allowance of 4 l. 4 s. per annum for inspecting Crown mineral property.	19 9 11
John Morgan Davies *	Froodvale, Llandilo, R.S.O., Cardigan.	Ditto for the counties of Cardigan, Carmarthen, and Radnor. ditto - ditto.	5 per cent. commission as above, and an allowance of 5 l. 12 s. for inspecting Crown mineral property.	13 7 -
Thomas Rule Owen -	Haverfordwest, Glamorganshire.	Ditto for the county of Pembroke. ditto - ditto.	5 per cent. commission as above, and an annual allowance of 15 s. for each mineral sett in the county inspected during each year.	Mr. Owen's appointment dates from 10th October 1888.
John Charles Hughes	Dolgelly, North Wales	Collector of collection rents in North Wales, for which he accounts through Mr. Wilkin.	5 per cent. commission, and the balance of the land tax not claimed or allowed on the rents collected.	58 10 1
Frederick Robert Tidd Pratt.	Kington, Hereford -	Steward of the Manors of Kington, Knuckles, Rhayader, South Ugre, and Presteign, county Radnor.	Paid by bills as solicitor -	17 18 11
Sir Robert Cunliffe, bart.	Acton Park, Wrexham, North Wales.	Steward of the Manors of Bromfield and Yale.	Salary, 10 l. - - -	10 - -
Robert Hugh Hughes	Ystrad, Denbigh -	Steward of the Lordship of Denbigh.	Salary, 10 l. . - - -	10 - -

* Also allowed out of the sums paid by applicants for the preparation of take notes a sum of 1 l. 1 s. in each case, for the map or plan to be attached thereto, such allowance having amounted, for the year ended 31st March 1888 (which as regards Mr. Bowen was an exceptional year owing to the gold discoveries), to the following sums, viz., J. Bowen, 205 l. 16 s.; H. A. Cope, Nil; and J. M. Davies, 6 l. 6 s. Mr. Bowen and Mr. Davies are surveyors, and are occasionally employed as such on the usual professional terms; Mr. Bowen's charges for which service amounted, during the same period, to 28 l. 18 s. These charges are usually repaid when the surveys are obtained in connection with sales or leases.

SCOTLAND.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount for Year to 31 March 1886.
Donald Beith, w.s.	Castle-street, Edinburgh	Solicitor in matters relating to the land revenues in Scotland.	Bills of costs * - - -	£ s. d. 2,455 7 10
John Stewart - -	Edinburgh - - -	Chamberlain and receiver of the rents, teinds, duties, and casualties payable to the Crown in Scotland, excepting those payable out of the (late) bishopric of Orkney, the lordship of Dunbar, and the lordship of Strathern. Mr. Stewart is expected, when required, to visit and report upon the Crown property, at Linlithgow and Strathlinz. He reports to the London office the deaths of Crown vassals in order that the casualties due may be assessed, makes searches at the Register House in connection with teind and feu duty questions, and furnishes information needed by the Commissioner in dealing with claims for and against the Crown in Scotland.	600 <i>l.</i> per annum, and an allowance for clerical assistance not exceeding 350 <i>l.</i>	950 - -
James Barnett - -	Kirkwall, Orkney -	Chamberlain and Receiver of Crown rents, duties, &c. payable out of the (late) bishopric of Orkney. Mr. Barnett also furnishes local information when required in connection with questions affecting the Crown land revenue in Orkney.	120 <i>l.</i> - - - - -	120 - -
† Alexander John Napier.	Edinburgh - - -	Hereditary Chamberlain and receiver of Crown rents, duties, &c., payable out of the lordship of Dunbar.	The following quantities of victual converted at current flars prices : q. b. p. g. q. Wheat - 8 5 3 1 0 Barley - 12 5 3 1 2 and as serjeant's fee, q. b. p. g. q. Wheat - 0 7 0 0 0 Barley - 1 2 0 1 2	37 11 8
† The Baroness Willoughby de Bresby, now Lord Willoughby de Eresby.	Muthill, county Perth -	Hereditary Chamberlain and receiver of Crown rents, duties, &c., payable out of the lordship of Strathern.	15 <i>l.</i> - - - - -	15 - -
William Mackay -	Thurso - - -	Factor and Commissioner, having general local superintendence under the Commissioner of Woods of the Crown property in the county of Caithness. Mr. Mackay is expected to visit the several farms without charge, to furnish reports, and to inspect works in progress.	40 <i>l.</i> per annum - - -	40 - -

* These bills of costs include costs recovered against the Crown, counsels' fees, and all other disbursements.

† The amount of the remuneration in the case of these two Hereditary Chamberlains is fixed by the grant of the office.

IRELAND.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount for Year to 31 March 1888.
Messrs. Hallows and Hamilton.	Westland-row, Dublin	Solicitors in matters relating to the land revenue in Ireland.	Bills of costs - - -	£. s. d. 218 8 8
G. Compton - -	Belfast - - -	This officer is collector of Inland Revenue at Belfast, and under Act 10 Geo. 4, c. 50, collects quit and other rents payable to the Crown in respect of premises situate within his Inland Revenue collection. He is also expected to make inquiries and report to the Quit Rent Office in Dublin on all matters affecting the land revenue of the Crown in his district.	2 per cent. on amount collected	21 5 - $\frac{1}{4}$
*J. Murphy - -	Coleraine - - -	Collector at Coleraine. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	1 4 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
J. Connor - -	Cork - - -	Collector at Cork. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	75 15 8
R. Connor - -	Dublin - - -	Collector at Dublin. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	21 2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
A. Weston - -	Dundalk - - -	Collector at Dundalk. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	174 1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
P. Kerin - - -	Galway - - -	Collector at Galway. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	123 11 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
R. M'Carthy - -	Kilkenny - - -	Collector at Kilkenny. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	194 6 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
J. O'Connell - -	Limerick - - -	Collector at Limerick. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	151 17 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
W. H. Honiball -	Londonderry - -	Collector at Londonderry. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	33 1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
*D. Thom - - -	Sligo - - -	Collector at Sligo. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	7 18 -
*W. Brosnahan -	Waterford - - -	Collector at Waterford. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	7 4 2
*J. O'Connell - -	Wexford - - -	Collector at Wexford. Similar duties.	2 per cent. on amount collected	12 14 -

* These collections have been abolished since 31st March 1888, and the rents formerly comprised in them added to one or more of the other collections.

Note.—Since 31st March 1888 Mr. Thomas Twamlow, Inland Revenue Officer at Wicklow, has been appointed local mine agent for the Crown in county Wicklow. His duties are the checking of accounts, examination of books, and similar duties, at the mine itself. In addition to his out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the discharge of these duties, he is assigned an allowance not exceeding 3 per cent. on the amount collected. Nothing has been paid to him up to the present time.

There is a branch office in Dublin called the Quit Rent Office, where the Irish business is conducted. Details of the staff will be found in the part of this Return which relates to the establishment generally. The cost of the Quit Rent Office establishment for the year to 31st March 1888 was 1,325 l. 10 s. 7 d.

ISLE OF MAN.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount for Year to 31st March 1888.
Ridgway Harrison -	Douglas - - -	Receiver of the Rents and Royalties issues, revenues and profits of all Her Majesty's hereditaments and possessions whatsoever in the Isle of Man. Mr. Harrison is required to keep a horse to enable him to visit all parts of the Island.	5 per cent. on all the said rents, &c., except tithes, and 1 per cent. on tithes.	£. s. d. 472 17 9
Ridgway Harrison -	- ditto - - -	Seneschal or steward of all Manors, Lordships, and Baronies, belonging to Her Majesty in the Isle of Man, and keeper of the Manorial Records. As such Mr. Harrison is required to hold periodical Manorial Courts in the different shreadings of the Island.	200 l. - - - -	200 - -
David Jamieson -	Barroole Cottage, Foxdale, Isle of Man.	Caretaker of the Crown plantations in the Isle of Man. As such Mr. Jamieson has to superintend the planting and transplanting in the plantations and nursery, to employ and pay the workmen, and furnish reports when required.	35 s. per week - - -	91 - -

ISLE OF ALDERNEY.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	DUTIES.	REMUNERATION.	
			Rate.	Amount for Year to 31st March 1888.
Gauvain, J. A. - -	Alderney - - -	Receiver of the Crown rents, and accounts to the Receiver for tithes, &c.	48 l. per annum, British currency.	£. s. d. 48 - -
Brice, F. - - -	- ditto - - -	Harbour master, collects and accounts to the Receiver for the harbour or tonnage dues, which are payable to the Crown on all vessels entering Braye Harbour (since retired).	10 l. 4 s. per annum, British currency.	19 4 -
Gaudian, P. S. - -	- ditto - - -	Harbour master, collects and accounts to the Receiver for the harbour or tonnage dues, which are payable to the Crown on all vessels entering Braye Harbour (successor to Mr. Brice).	- ditto - - ditto.	-
* Barbenson, Thomas Nicholas.	- ditto - - -	Judge - - - -	150 l. per annum, British currency.	150 - -
* Barbenson, Nicholas	- ditto - - -	Queen's Procureur - -	38 l. 8 s., British currency -	38 8 -
† Renier, J. P. - -	- ditto - - -	Clerk or Greffier in the court of Alderney.	24 l., British currency - -	24 - -
* Hodgen, William -	- ditto - - -	Gaoler (since dead) - -	20 l. by 1 l. a year, to 25 l., fees per day for each prisoner if on ordinary diet, 11 d.; if on bread and water, 6 d.; and 3 d. per head for cooking, (Alderney currency).	27 3 1
* David Malcolm -	- ditto - - -	Gaoler (successor to W. Hodgen).	- ditto - - ditto.	-

* These officers are concerned with the administration of justice in the Island and have nothing to do with the management or collection of Land Revenues of the Crown there.

† This officer is a kind of Registrar and Record Keeper to the Court, and in this capacity has to register all transfers of real property in the Island, and upon every transfer an acquittance is payable to the Crown.

APPENDIX, No. 7.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *George Culley*, 28 June 1889.

SCOTLAND.—CAPITAL RECEIPTS, 1849—1888.

Year ended 31st March	Sales of Estates.	Sales of Feu Duties.	Sales of Teinds.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1850 - -	93 10 -	- - -	6,169 16 9	- - -	6,263 6 9
1851 - -	- - -	- - -	2,271 6 8	- - -	2,271 6 8
1852 - -	3,861 8 10	- - -	3,055 13 5	- - -	6,917 2 3
1853 - -	1,518 9 6	- - -	317 7 -	- - -	1,835 16 6
1854 - -	12,060 - -	- - -	907 11 4	- - -	12,967 11 4
1855 - -	4,006 - -	38 3 -	883 6 11	- - -	4,927 9 11
1856 - -	3,095 9 6	1,399 6 8	4,903 5 -	- - -	9,425 1 2
1857 - -	1,334 16 6	1,265 7 4	2,402 9 11	- - -	5,002 13 9
1858 - -	4,868 9 9	9 6 8	573 7 11	- - -	5,451 4 4
1859 - -	3,204 10 3	51 14 7	2,908 4 7	- - -	6,254 9 5
1860 - -	1,520 15 6	23 3 -	918 15 7	- - -	2,462 14 1
1861 - -	732 - -	- - -	930 11 3	- - -	1,662 11 3
1862 - -	122 2 -	1,216 17 4	127 1 9	14 12 -	1,480 13 1
1863 - -	1,016 16 -	1 2 2	- - -	1,280 8 11	2,298 7 1
1864 - -	393 15 -	- - -	- - -	39 4 -	432 19 -
1865 - -	85 12 10	- - -	394 16 2	2 2 -	482 11 -
1866 - -	57 10 -	- - -	2,428 1 4	- - -	2,485 11 4
1867 - -	970 - -	30 6 8	2,598 9 -	2 2 -	3,600 17 8
1868 - -	4,500 - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	4,500 - -
1869 - -	- - -	- - -	661 12 7	- - -	661 12 7
1870 - -	- - -	203 5 3	375 3 -	- - -	578 8 3
1871 - -	5,407 10 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	5,407 10 -
1872 - -	5,670 15 -	- - -	358 17 6	- - -	6,029 12 6
1873 - -	556 15 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	556 15 -
1874 - -	524 5 -	2,818 2 8	- - -	- - -	3,342 7 8

APPENDIX, No. 7.—continued.

Year ended 31st March	Sales of Estates.	Sales of Fen Duties.	Sales of Teinds.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1875 - -	37 10 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	37 10 -
1876 - -	218 10 -	7,325 16 8	230 11 -	- - -	7,774 17 8
1877 - -	52 10 -	5,669 4 6	100 - 4	- - -	5,821 14 10
1878 - -	15 5 -	2,693 8 10	62 10 -	- - -	2,771 3 10
1879 - -	162 5 -	441 12 7	- - -	- - -	603 17 7
1880 - -	- - -	103 16 2	1,428 10 11	1 - -	1,533 7 1
1881 - -	626 10 -	1,072 6 1	301 3 -	- - -	1,999 19 1
1882 - -	30,000 - -	202 - -	363 15 -	- - -	30,565 15 -
1883 - -	500 15 -	467 18 -	659 5 9	- - -	1,627 18 9
1884 - -	19,425 - -	18 10 -	30 9 6	- - -	19,473 19 6
1885 - -	1,180 5 -	615 5 -	307 4 -	- - -	2,102 14 -
1886 - -	215 - -	415 7 8	234 6	- - -	864 17 2
1887 - -	760 - -	54 - 8	20 3 4	- - -	834 4 -
1888 - -	4,177 5 -	75 - -	211 - -	- - -	4,463 5 -
£.	112,971 5 8	26,211 1 6	37,252 - -	1,339 8 11	177,773 16 1

PURCHASES.

	£. s. d.
1866-67 - - - - -	110 - -
1885-86 - - - - -	320 - -
£.	430 - -

APPENDIX, No. 8.

PAPER handed in by Mr. George Culley, 28 June 1889.

FARMS.—SCOTLAND.

COUNTY.	PLACE.	NAME.	AREA.	TENANT.	TERM OF LEASE.	RENT.	
CAITHNESS	Parish of Reay	Stemster (including Shootings), &c.	<i>Acres.</i> 340 arable 330 pasture 4 roads, &c.	David Sinclair and his son Donald.	19 years from Whitsunday, 1885.	£. s. d. 201 - - 36 14 1 4 1 5	Reduced to 904 <i>l.</i> for five years, from Whitsunday, 1887. Interest at 6 per cent. on 611 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> , drainage. Interest at 3 per cent. on 136 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i> , from bridge over river.
			674 acres.			11 9 6	
	Parish of Thurso	Lythmore (including Shootings, &c.).	<i>Acres.</i> 325 arable 711 pasture 6 roads, &c.	John Dunnet and his son James.	- - ditto - -	343 5 -	Interest at 3 per cent. on 382 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> , Manager's House, &c. Reduced to 328 <i>l.</i> for five years, from Whitsunday, 1887.
			1,043 acres.			410 - -	
DITTO	Dorriery	-	6,000 acres	James Purves	19 years from Whitsunday, 1885. Determinable at end of first eight years on giving one year's notice.	300 - -	For eight years, 355 <i>l.</i> thereafter, but determinable Whitsunday, 1890. Reduced to 225 <i>l.</i> for three years, from Whitsunday, 1887. Interest at 4 per cent. on 340 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> , Torran Cutting, burns, &c.
						14 - 3 3 18 8	
	Ditto	Dorriery Shootings	6,000 acres	Sir J. G. T. Sinclair, bart.	10 years from Whitsunday, 1880.	317 13 11	Interest at 6 per cent. on 103 <i>l.</i> 9 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> , new kennels.
						292 - - 6 4 2	
LINTHOGOW	Linthgow	Parkhead	- acres	Robert Bowie (since deceased) and Robert Bowie, jun.	19 years from Martinmas, 1878.	268 4 2	Reduced to 240 <i>l.</i> , till Martinmas, 1888. Interest at 6 per cent. on 114 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> , drainage. Interest at 2½ per cent. on 190 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> , cottages.
						315 - - 6 17 5 4 16 4	
	Ditto	Parkhead Shootings	134-688 acres	Adam Dawson's representatives.	Twofold Relocation	256 13 9	<i>Acres.</i> 341-231 — 3-388 cemetery sold — 237-498. Of this Mr. Dewar has the grazing.
						4 - -	
STIRLING	Parish of Carriden	Blackness	About 13 acres 2 roads	William Steedman	Yearly	18 - -	
	Stirling (and St. Ninians)	King's Park Farm (including Shootings).	337-888 acres	Peter Dewar	6 years from Martinmas, 1886.	375 - -	
	Ditto - ditto	Ditto Rifle Range	4-203 acres	Secretary for War	19 years from Martinmas, 1887.	80 - -	

Total.		
£.	s.	d.
19,764	16	3
24,624	17	3
25,004	18	2
25,543	10	11
27,396	16	3
25,481	-	3
22,330	9	-
22,304	17	8
20,953	3	-
22,218	14	1
24,039	9	0
21,968	10	0
25,668	9	0
27,431	2	8
26,184	19	0
23,534	4	0
24,070	18	0
25,028	11	0
26,894	13	0
25,786	16	0
26,631	7	0
27,516	2	0
29,249	19	0
31,751	19	0
28,955	9	0
26,637	-	0
25,791	16	0
25,471	6	2
26,215	8	0
25,080	-	0
25,276	19	0
26,500	10	0
25,789	10	0
25,208	5	0

PAPER hande

LAND]

EXPENDITURE in the Year

th	Salary and Per-centage of Receiver, &c.	Incidental Expenses of Receiver.	Surveys, &c. of Crown Property.	Repairs, &c., of Crown Estates
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
-	1,194 9 9	28 6 -	- - -	552 18 7
-	1,415 5 5	33 4 3	- - -	1,588 - 11
-	1,309 18 10	30 1 3	88 13 2	31 15 2
-	1,368 18 11	20 14 8	121 14 9	332 3 3
-	1,435 9 7	26 4 3	135 15 6	2,033 9 -
-	1,494 8 5	25 15 6	149 15 3	861 3 -
-	1,412 2 2	36 12 6	609 18 6	1,846 6 7
-	1,396 7 4	43 7 7	74 1 6	2,119 16 5
-	1,328 - 6	61 1 1	124 7 2	2,656 4 6
-	1,369 12 11	35 3 4	440 3 2	963 13 10
-	1,486 14 7	55 16 7	845 19 3	220 19 6
-	1,401 15 2	79 8 2	143 2 -	651 16 -
-	1,534 13 7	105 8 8	164 5 1	886 6 2
-	1,743 18 3	57 8 7	72 8 2	352 2 6
-	1,596 9 5	68 15 4	123 1 7	234 5 8
-	1,489 3 -	42 13 11	154 13 5	- - -
-	1,479 2 2	33 11 7	109 9 11	1 10 -
-	1,520 19 10	26 19 6	44 10 9	- - -
-	1,620 17 9	19 19 2	69 9 1	10 11 6
-	1,577 18 9	22 12 8	52 9 -	4 10 -
-	1,546 17 11	29 5 5	101 2 1	- - -
-	1,618 - 3	23 19 8	81 18 4	108 8 -
-	1,743 14 11	24 4 6	23 1 4	- - -
-	1,811 18 5	22 2 10	46 11 8	20 - -
-	1,680 13 -	20 3 6	40 8 -	20 - -
-	1,767 10 3	27 11 7	103 8 7	92 14 2
-	1,107 6 -	20 10 2	20 14 -	310 9 8
-	1,094 10 2	22 1 3	65 14 -	182 13 9
-	1,106 15 6	27 4 1	66 14 9	234 2 5
-	1,097 4 2	22 19 5	54 - 2	324 - 11
-	1,089 13 8	21 6 9	32 2 6	222 8 5
-	1,004 2 5	21 16 11	42 16 7	499 2 -
-	1,065 18 7	24 9 7	33 6 6	89 5 3
-	1,010 11 7	1,152 - 3	4,235 15 9	17,450 17 2

" abandoned as a heading, but there have been practical
 Lord Advocate v. Guthrie, 1,210l. 3s. 10d., and balance of
 12s. compensation for recall of grant of Queen Anne to
 tion to tenants for loss of Girdleness Salmon fishings,
 found due on account of interest in action Graham v. Co
 late Scotch Receiver. Mr. Bellairs, begins.

APPENDIX No. 10.

PAPER handed in by Mr. George Culley, 25 June 1889.

LAND REVENUE, WALES.

PARTICULARS of REVENUE, with RENTS received, in the YEAR 1887-88.

LESSEE.	PREMISES LEASED.	Area.	TERM.	ANNUAL RENTS OR ROYALTIES.	Amount received in Year ended 31st March 1888.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
COUNTY OF ANGLESEY:					
Various - - - - -	FEE FARM and COLLECTION RENTS - - - - -	A. R. P.	—	150 4 1	145 8 3
Colonel Owen Williams - - - - -	SURFACE RENTS, LEASES (Lands, Foreshores, &c.):				
William Owen - - - - -	Foreshore of the Menai Straits - - - - -	2 3 7	21 years from 10 October 1864	8 - -	12 - -
Andrews Owen - - - - -	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	—	31 " 10 October 1871	15 - -	15 - -
Richard Williams - - - - -	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	—	31 " 10 October "	2 - -	2 - -
Wakefield, Crook, and Wakefield	Moelydon Ferry - - - - -	—	21 " 5 April - 1885	37 - -	37 - -
J. B. Price - - - - -	Land in parish of Llanbedr Newboro', with buildings thereon	16 0 22	10 " 5 April - 1884	10 10 -	10 10 -
T. F. Evans - - - - -	Foreshore of Menai Straits, with pier, &c. thereon - -	1 0 0	31 " 5 April - 1876	75 - -	75 - -
H. H. Williams - - - - -	Ditto - in front of Plas Elva Farm - - - - -	69 2 0	21 " 5 April - 1882	1 - -	1 - -
Alice Jones - - - - -	Ditto - at Townyn of Capel - - - - -	10 2 0	21 " 10 October 1881	2 - -	2 - -
J. B. Price - - - - -	Ditto - at Townyn Penrhos - - - - -	26 2 0	20½ " 5 July 1884	1 10 -	1 10 -
Various - - - - -	Ditto - of the Menai Straits - - - - -	4 0 0	21 " 10 October 1885	23 - -	23 - -
	Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings, easements, &c.	—	—	6 - -	5 - -
				£.	169 15 -
Griffith and Roberts - - - - -	PROFITS of MINES:				
	Minerals (except rocks quarries and beds of stone) in land on Holyhead Mountain.	112 3 0	21 years from 5 January 1887	1 - -	11 - -
Jones and Roberts - - - - -	Fireclay in land on Holyhead Mountain - - - - -	85 0 0	21 " 10 October 1879	One-twelfth 10 - -	10 - -
Various - - - - -	Rents of Take Notes and other small acknowledgments - -	—	—	One-twelfth 10 - -	10 - -
				£.	13 2 8
					34 2 8

[illegible]

Carried forward . . . £.

778 18 3

PARTICULARS of Revenue, with Rents received, in Year 1887-88—continued.

LESSEE.	PREMISES LEASED.	Area.	TERM.	ANNUAL RENTS OR ROYALTIES.	Amount received in Year ended 31st March 1888.
		A. R. P.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
COUNTY OF CARMARVON— continued.	SURFACE RENTS, LEASES (Lands, Foreshores, &c.)—continued.				
Welsh Granite Company	Foreshore at Porthbodellias	7 3 30	21 years from 10 October 1876	Brought forward	778 18 3
Hugh Jones	Land in the parish of Llandwrog, with building (Encroachment 288).	3 3 0	21	Rent, first 3 years	15
Elizabeth Jones	Land in the parish of Llandwrog, with building (Encroachment 337, part of).	2 0 17	21	Afterwards	20
J. T. Owens	Land in the parish of Llandwrog, with building (Encroachment 278).	0 0 15	21	Merging in shipping royalty of	0
Robert Thomas	Land in the parish of Llandwrog, with building, &c.	14 1 14	21		6
William John Roberts	Land in the parish of Llandwrog, with building	1 1 15	21		1
Owen Jones	Ditto	2 1 31	21		7
Griffith Jones	Ditto	0 0 3	21		1
William Griffith	Ditto	3 1 14	21		3
Owen Jones	Ditto	0 1 19	21		2
George Reid	Foreshore in Colwyn Bay	13 2 29	21		1
Elizabeth Roberts	Land in the parish of Llysfaen, with building, &c.	0 1 19	21		2
G. W. D. Asheton Smith	Foreshore of the Menai Straits, with sea-wall, &c.	2 3 6	21		6
Sir L. Turner	Ditto	154 yards	21		1
Messrs. Turner	Ditto	14 2 30	21		2
John Pritchard	Ditto	0 2 14	21		1
Llandudno Improvement Commissioners.	Foreshore adjacent to parish of Llandudno	270 0 0	21		1
Ann Jones	Land in the parish of Llandwrog, with buildings	4 1 2	21		4
Pugh, Davies, and Williams	Right to use a tramway between Vron Quarry and North Wales Narrow Gauge Railway.	—	80½		1
Williams, Pugh, and Davies	Land in the parish of Llandwrog, with building	9 1 23	13		8
Sir T. Bateson and others	Right to use a tramway from Alexandra Slate Quarry to Terminus of North Wales Narrow Gauge Railway.	2 2 33	31		1
Sydney Platt	Foreshore at Llanfairfechan	333 3 26	21		3
Henry Platt	Ditto	138 3 2	21		1
Dwygyfychi Local Board	License to lay pipes and take water from Foel Llys	—	31		5
William Bootock	Foreshore at Llandrillo-yu-Rhos	41 0 0	21		1
E. E. Jones	Land in parish of Llandwrog (Encroachment 385f)	—	21		1
Messrs. Raynes	Foreshore in the parish of Llysfaen, with pier	30 1 0	21		905 14 1
Various	Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings, encumbrances, &c.	—	—		190 3 9
					1,862 — 1

SPORTING RENTS:				10 years from 5 April 1890	2,977 1 38	2,961 3 38	45 0 0	3,250 0 0	10 years from 5 April 1890	21	21	21
Joseph Smith	-	-	-	Land in the parishes of Llanfairfechan, Dwygyfyllt, Gylfie, and Llangelynnin.	-	-	-	-	10 years from 5 April 1890	21	21	21
G. W. D. Ascheton Smith	-	-	-	Land in the parishes of Llanbeblig, Llanberis, and Llanrug	-	-	-	-	10 years from 5 April 1890	21	21	21
Messrs. Dew	-	-	-	Land in the parish of Llanrug	-	-	-	-	10 years from 5 April 1890	21	21	21
W. A. Darbyshire	-	-	-	Land in the parishes of Llanddwrog and Llanwnda	-	-	-	-	10 years from 5 April 1890	21	21	21
£.												
49 - -												
PROFITS OF MINES:												
Brundrit and Whiteway	-	-	-	Quarries of paving stone on Penmaenmawr	-	-	-	-	21 years from 10 October 1870	21	21	21
Ditto	-	-	-	Ditto - Penmaenbach	-	-	-	-	10 October	21	21	21
Jones, Davies, and Green	-	-	-	Limestone in the parish of Llysfaen	-	-	-	-	10 October 1875	21	21	21
Williams and Pugh	-	-	-	Slate in the parish of Llanddwrog	-	-	-	-	10 October	31	31	31
J. W. Hughes	-	-	-	The Brynfferam Quarry, parish of Llanddwrog	-	-	-	-	10 October 1861	31	31	31
T. H. G. Newton	-	-	-	Brynmawr and Bwlchygroes Quarries, Llanberis and Llanbeblig.	-	-	-	-	10 October 1886	33	33	33
Sir T. Bateson and others	-	-	-	Slate in Llanwnda and Llanddwrog	-	-	-	-	10 October 1883	31	31	31
Field, Watson, and Somerville	-	-	-	Slate in Llanwnda	-	-	-	-	5 January 1863	31	31	31
Carried forward - - - £.												
2,988 15 10												

PARTICULARS of Revenue, with Rents received, in Year 1887-88—continued.

LESSEE.	PREMISES LEASED.	Area.	TERM.	ANNUAL RENTS OR ROYALTIES.		Amount received in Year ended 31st March 1888.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
COUNTY OF CARNARVON —continued.	PROFITS of MINES—continued.	A. R. P.				2,268 15 10
George Strutton	Slate in parishes of Llanrug and Llanbeblig	52 2 22	31 years from 10 October 1864	Rent - - - - - Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, first 3 years afterwards - - - Ditto - - - - - reduced to -	1 - - - One-sixteenth 50 - - - 50 - - - 40 - - -	41 - - -
Salmon and Griffiths	Slate in parish of Caerhun	195 0 0	21½ " 5 July 1887	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - -	One-twelfth 25 - - -	-
Thomas, Davies, and Williams	Slate, &c. in parish of Llandwrog	172 2 16	31 " 10 October 1884	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, first 5 years afterwards - - - Ditto - - - - - reduced to -	One-sixteenth 250 - - - 300 - - - 250 - - -	250 - - -
John Pearson	Ditto - - - ditto	155 0 0	31 " 10 October 1880	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - - Ditto - - - - - reduced to -	One-seventeenth 350 - - - 300 - - -	230 5 10
Jane Roberts	Limestone in Llangwstenin parish	15 1 38	21 " 5 July 1870	Rent - - - - - Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - - Ditto - - - - - reduced to -	1 - - - 1½ d. per ton 10 - - - 5 - - -	6 - - -
Kneeshaw and Lepton	Stone in Dwygyfylchi parish	108 3 11	21 " 10 October 1872	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - -	2 d. per ton 100 - - -	100 - - -
Ditto	Limestone in land at Penmaenrhos	32 3 27	20 " 10 October 1873	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - -	1½ d. per ton 50 - - -	50 - - -
Lindow and Wilson	Minerals in parish of Llanengan	47 0 8	21 " 5 July 1877	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, first 2 years 3rd year afterwards - - - Ditto - - - - -	One-sixteenth 10 - - - 25 - - - 50 - - -	50 - - -
Sir T. Bateson and others	Ditto - - - Llanwnda	10 2 11	27½ " 5 April 1870	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - -	One-twelfth 2 - - -	2 - - -
Hayward, Carter, and Blakle	Slate, &c. in parish of Llandwrog	180 0 23	21 " 5 April 1880	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, 1st year 2nd year 3rd year afterwards - - - Ditto - - - - -	One-fifteenth 10 - - - 20 - - - 30 - - - 50 - - -	50 - - -
Ditto - - - ditto	Ditto - - - ditto	167 3 16	21 " 5 April "	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - - Ditto - - - - - reduced to -	One-thirtieth 1,000 - - - 400 - - -	1,128 10 0
Tod and Cooke	Quarries in parish of Llanllechid	243 0 19	31 " 10 October 1868	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - - Rent - - - - -	One-twentieth 50 - - - 1 - - -	-
Llandudno Improvement Commissioners.	Stone, &c. from beach adjacent to the parish of Llandudno	270 0 0	21 " 10 October 1880	Royalty - - - - -	2 d. per ton	1 10 4

Love Jones Parry	Stono in parish of Llanbedrog	50 0 0	44	1 January 1881	Royalty - Minimum royalty, first 30 years Ditto - afterwards	3d. per ton 10 - 15 -	10 -
Ditto	Ditto	57 2 4	44	1 January "	Royalty on dressed stone Royalty on macadam and undressed stone	4d. per ton 1d. "	56 0 7
John Williams	Ditto	50 0 0	31½	5 July 1882	Minimum royalty, first 10 years Ditto - afterwards Royalty on dressed stone Royalty on macadam and undressed stone	25 - 37 - 3d. per ton 1d. "	10 -
Mounsey, Gee, and Gee	Ditto	17 0 32	40	10 October 1880	Minimum royalty, first quarter-year Ditto - next 1½ years Ditto - afterwards Royalty - Minimum royalty, first 21 years Ditto - afterwards	2 10 - 10 - 20 - 3d. per ton 10 - 20 -	10 -
Newton, Palmer, and Menzies	Slate, &c. in Llanrug and Llanbellig	274 2 21	26	10 October 1883	Minimum royalty, first 6½ years Ditto - afterwards Ditto - reduced to	400 - 600 - 300 -	459 5 0
Sydney Platt	Stone from foreshore at Llanfairfechan	333 3 26	21	10 October 1884	Royalty -	3d. per ton	2 -
Henry Platt	Ditto	128 3 2	21	10 October "	Ditto	3d. "	16 8
Fox, Durant, and Jennings	Stone in the parish of Nevin	55 0 0	30½	5 April 1886	Royalty on dressed stone Ditto - undressed stone Minimum royalty, first half-year Ditto - next year Ditto - next 5 years Ditto - afterwards	1d. " 5 - 20 - 50 - 80 -	53 15 4
Various	Rents of Take Notes, and other small acknowledgments	-	-	-	-	-	£. 4,778 8 10
COUNTY OF DENBIGH:	FEE FARM and COLLECTION RENTS	-	-	-	-	762 19 0½	802 13 6½
Various	SURFACES RENTS, LEASES (Lands, Foreshores, &c.):	-	-	-	-	-	-
West, Smart, and Edwards	Ruins of Denbigh Castle	-	31 years from	5 January 1879	-	21 1 6	21 1 6
M. and D. Owen	Encroachment called Tynyfridd, part of Llanclaw allotment	20 0 0	20½	5 January 1883	-	6 -	5 8 -
G. H. Wakfield	Sea wall, &c. on foreshore at Llandrillo-yn-rhos	10 0 22	10	5 April 1884	-	1 -	1 -
Borough of Wrexham	Site of cattle market in Wrexham	1 2 32	21	10 October 1873	-	10 -	10 -
Miss Hughes	Land on Mynyddi Poeth, parish of Cerrigydruidion	126 2 22	20½	5 April 1883	-	18 -	19 -
London and North Western Railway.	Beach and foreshore in Llandrillo-yn-rhos and Llysfaen	101 0 0	21	10 October 1878	-	5 -	5 -
J. G. Gratton	Marsh land on west side of River Clwyd Voryd	14 0 10	21	30 October 1879	-	8 -	8 -
London and North Western Railway.	Foreshore adjacent to Rhuddlan Marsh Embankment	-	21	10 October 1880	-	2 -	2 -
H. C. H. and W. A. Hills	Foreshore near Tan yr Ogof, with liberty to construct jetty	-	21	10 October 1883	Rent, 1st half-year Rent, afterwards	- 10 - 10 -	10 -
Various	Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings, easements, &c.	-	-	-	Merging in shipping royalty of 1d. per ton.	77 19 10	78 5 10
						£.	159 16 4

PARTICULARS of Revenue, with Rents received, in Year 1887-88—continued.

LESSEE.	PREMISES LEASED.	Area.	TERM.	ANNUAL RENTS OR ROYALTIES.	Amount received in Year ended 31st March 1888.
COUNTY OF DENBIGH— <i>continued.</i>	SPORTING RENTS:	A. R. P.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
W. D. W. Griffith	Sporting over land in Llanefydd	1,016 0 39	10 years from 5 April 1882	8	8
D. Boote	Ditto ditto Ypytty Iwan	582 2 1	10 " 5 April 1881	10	10
Ditto	Ditto ditto Gwytharin	2,606 1 37	10 " 5 April "	75	75
Henry Tate	Ditto ditto Llanfairfahalarn	2,215 1 11	10 " 5 April "	40	40
Ditto	Ditto ditto Llansannan	5,928 1 2	10 " 5 April "	201	201
				£.	384
PROFITS OF MINES:					
Jones, Davis, and Green	Limestone in land at Abergelle and Bettws Abergelle	100 2 4	21 years from 10 October 1875	1½ d. per ton	25
D. Roberts	Minerals, &c. in land at Abergelle	41 3 14	21 " 10 October 1878	One-twelfth	10
J., J. E., and E. Evans	Flag quarries at Nantglyn	—	21 " 10 October "	One-twelfth	18
E. and J. Evans	Ditto	261 0 0	21 " 10 October "	One-twelfth	20
				£.	67
COUNTY OF FLINT:	FEE FARM AND COLLECTION RENTS			£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Various				81 4 8	81 3
SURFACE RENTS, LEASES (Lands Foreshores, &c.):					
Mrs. Penelope Warren and Major Warren.	Land at Rhyl	11 3 12	21 years from 5 April 1887	12	11
Robert Jones	Foreshore, &c. in parish of Rhuddlan	2 3 33	21 " 10 October 1878	18	18
Major C. J. H. R. Conway	Foreshore on east side of River Clwyd, in parish of Rhuddlan	08 3 0	21 " 10 October 1880	15	15
London and North Western Railway Company.	Foreshore of River Clwyd adjoining Chester and Holyhead Railway.	2 2 20	21 " 10 October 1873	25	25
Rhyl Promenade Pier Company	Land at Rhyl for pier	—	80 " 10 October 1864	10	—
W. and S. Roberts	Shore of River Clwyd adjacent to parish of Rhuddlan	1 1 7	21 " 10 October 1808	14	14
R. W. Preston	Shore of River Clwyd adjacent to parish of Rhuddlan, with pier, &c.	0 2 13	21 " 10 October 1808	35	35
Rhyl Improvement Commissioners	License to construct and maintain sewer at Rhyl	—	21 " 5 April 1879	1	1
Caroline Lewis	Encroachments 18 and 19, in parish of Dyserth	0 1 11	20 " 10 October "	1 10	1 10
Various	Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings.	—		9 16	9 16
				£.	130 6

PROFITS OF MINES:		0	2	5	21 years from 10 October 1878	Royalty - Minimum royalty	1 d. per ton
W. Thomas	Limestone in land in Dyserth	-	-	-	-	-	5 - -
C. Lewis	Ditto - - - ditto	0	1	28	21	10 October	5 - -
J. Clay	Mines, minerals, &c. at Voelhiradog, Cwm	123	2	30	21	10 October	74 19 11
Thomas Lewis	Limestone in land at Dyserth	1	1	31	21	10 October	15 - -
J. R. and T. Roberts	Chert and other stone in land on Halkin Mountain	25	0	0	21	10 October 1872	17 7 3
E. Edwards	Limestone and other stone (except Chirt stone) in land on Halkin Mountain.	6	3	34	21	5 April 1873	12 - -
Jones and Hughes	Chirt stone, Aberdo or hydraulic limestone, and other stone in Halkin Mountain.	4	2	0	21	5 July	27 - 3
Bew, Bird, and Dawes	Minerals in parish of Gwaenysgor	52	0	10	21	5 July	20 - -
C. Pickering	Sand, &c. in land on Halkin Mountain	0	0	0	7 1/2	5 July 1882	12 - -
Taylor, Schofield, Davies, and Roberts.	Stone (except Chirt stone) in land at Trelogan	5	2	0	21	5 April 1876	20 - -
Smith, Evans, and Smith	Chirt stone, &c. in land in parish of Llanasa	10	1	12	21	5 July 1878	22 11 2
Lord Mostyn	Minerals in land at Marian-y-Cwm	61	3	36	14	10 October 1878	30 - -
Ditto	Limestone, &c. in land in Dyserth	1	0	23	14	10 October 1878	15 16 11

Carried forward - - £.

276 15 6

PARTICULARS of Revenue, with Rents received, in Year 1887-88—continued.

LESSEE.	PREMISES LEASED.	Area.	TERM.	ANNUAL RENTS OR ROYALTIES.	Amount received in Year ended 31st March 1888.
COUNTY OF FLINT— continued.					
Robert Jones	PROFITS of MINES—continued. All stone in land at Halkin	A. R. P. 1 2 33	7 years from 10 October 1883	Brought forward Royalty on Chirt stone Royalty on Aberdo Royalty on other stone Minimum royalty	£. s. d. 276 15 6 10 - - - - - - - -
A. Taylor	Limetone and other stone in land at Dyserth	0 1 10	13½ " 5 January 1886	Royalty Minimum royalty	5 - - - - -
Williams and Lester	Stone in land on Halkin Mountain	7 0 0	21 " 10 October "	Royalty on Chirt stone Royalty on Aberdo Royalty on other stone Minimum royalty, 1st year Ditto - 2nd year Ditto - afterwards	8 2 9 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
W. A. Browne	Rent of Take Note	—	—	—	0 - -
COUNTY OF MERIONETH:					
Various	FEE FARM and COLLECTION RENTS	—	—	—	305 18 3
	SURFACE RENTS, LEASES (Lands, Foreshores, &c.):				
David Jones	Sylmant Farm in the parish of Maentwrog	101 3 30	Annual tenancy 20 years from 10 October 1880	—	36 - -
W. R. M. Wynne	Harlech Castle and its appurtenances	—	30½ " 5 April 1863	—	1 - -
R. L. Ellis' executors	Foreshore of River Maeddach at Borthwrog	0 1 30	89 " 10 October 1864	—	1 - -
D. Davies	Ditto - ditto - near Dolgelley	85 0 0	89 " 10 October 1864	Rent Shipping royalty	1 - - 1 d. per ton
Cambrian Railways Company	Foreshore with wharf, &c. at Aberdovey	20 0 0	09 " 10 October 1883	Rent Merging in royalty of one-ninth of dues received	100 15 1
T. H. and W. M'Connell	Foreshore of River Dovey	0 0 3	31 " 10 October 1868	Rent Shipping royalty	1 - - 1 - -
Bala Local Board	License to lay pipes and take water from Llyn Arenig Vawr, Llaneyll.	—	31 " 6 January 1879	—	—
Richard Jones	Mountain land in Llanddwyr	95 1 6	7 " 10 October 1882	—	8 - -
Ann Pritchard	Land in Llandanwg adjoining Harlech Castle	0 1 12	31 " 6 April 1884	—	2 - -
Cambrian Railways Company	House, garden, &c., at Aberdovey	—	(If leases so long live.)	—	94 - -
Ditto	Dwelling-house, &c., at Aberdovey	—	Term expiring 10 October 1904	—	61 - -
Ditto	Wharf at Aberdovey	—	—	—	8 - -
Ditto	Dwelling-house and warehouse at Aberdovey	—	—	—	40 - -
M. J. Roberts and others	Two dwelling-houses, gardens, &c., at Aberdovey	—	31 years from 10 October 1880	—	115 10 11
Various	Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings, easements, &c.	—	—	—	461 8 -

SPORTING RENTS :									
W. Davies -	Sporting over land in the parish of Maentwrog	1,808	0	0	10 years from 5 April	1884	15	-	15
F. G. Jones -	Ditto - on Mynydd Nodol, Llanveill	1,245	1	24	10 "	5 April	22	-	22
Lord Penrhyn -	Ditto - in the parish of Festiniog	2,275	0	0	10 "	5 April	60	-	60
W. Kerr -	Ditto - ditto - Llanfawr	161	3	31	10 "	5 April	3	10	3 10
E. G. Jones -	Ditto - ditto - Llanveill	4,075	0	0	10 "	5 April	69	-	69
C. R. Williams -	Sporting over land in parishes of Traawsfynydd, Llandecwyn, Maentwrog, Llanelltyd, and Llanddwywe.	4,527	2	6	10 "	5 April	10	-	10
R. J. L. Price -	Sporting over land in parishes of Llanfawr and Llandderfel	1,198	3	29	10 "	5 April	19	-	19
							198	10	-
PROFITS OF MINES :									
R. L. Ellis' executors and Searell	Cefn Cam Quarry, in the parishes of Llanddwywe and Llanalltyd.	380	1	6	30½ years from 5 April	1862	1	-	1
							One-twelfth	-	One-twelfth
							10	-	10
							100	-	100
							1	-	1
							One-twelfth	-	One-twelfth
							5	-	5
							10	-	10
							One-twentieth	-	One-twentieth
							30	-	30
							60	-	60
							100	-	100
							One-twentieth	-	One-twentieth
							100	-	100
							50	-	50
							One-eighteenth	-	One-eighteenth
							50	-	50
							One-thirtieth	-	One-thirtieth
							100	-	100
							1	-	1
							One-eighteenth	-	One-eighteenth
							30	-	30
							One-eighteenth	-	One-eighteenth
							11	-	11
							51	-	51
							20	-	20
							794	4	6

PARTICULARS of Revenue, with Rents received, in Year 1887-88—continued.

LESSEE.	PREMISES LEASED.	Area.	TERM.	ANNUAL RENTS OR ROYALTIES.	Amount received in Year ended 31st March 1888.
		A. R. P.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
COUNTY OF MERIONETH— continued.	PROFITS of MINES—continued.				
Taboridin, Hooper, and Thomas	Slate in land in Llanfrothes and Festiniog	366 0 0	21 years from 5 July - 1871	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty reduced to - - - - -	734 4 6
W. Davis	Slate, &c. on Moolwyn Mountain, Llanfrothes	207 0 0	30½ " 5 July - 1884	Royalty to 10th October 1887 - - - - - Royalty afterwards - - - - -	11 - - 50 - -
J. James	Stone (except ironstone and slatestone) in land in Dolgelley	9 0 0	10½ " 5 April - 1886	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty - - - - -	2 - -
Diplock and Hodgson	Slate and stone in land in Dolgelley	84 0 0	21 " 10 October 1875	Royalty - - - - - Ditto - - - - - Ditto - - - - -	80 - -
Leedham and Gerard	Minerals in land in Llanaber	60 1 35	21 " 10 October 1876	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, first 3 years - - - - - Ditto - - - - -	30 - -
Griffith, Griffith, and Richards	Slate in land in Llanfachreth	230 0 0	31 " 5 April - 1877	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, 1st year - - - - - Ditto - - - - - Ditto - - - - - Ditto - - - - -	25 - -
T. E. and D. Vickers and Candell	Minerals, gold and silver, in land in Llanaber (Clogau Mine)	541 3 1	21½ " 5 January 1887	Royalty, first three-quarters of a year - - - - - Royalty afterwards - - - - - Minimum royalty to 10th October 1887 - - - - - Minimum royalty to 10th October 1888 - - - - - Minimum royalty afterwards - - - - -	13 15 -
Dodd, Dawson, and others	Slate and stone in land in Maentwrog and Trawsfynydd	230 3 27	21½ " 5 July - 1879	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, first 3½ years - - - - - Ditto - - - - -	- -
Edwards, Pierce, and others	Ditto	313 3 0	31 " 10 October 1880	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, first 5 years - - - - - Ditto - - - - - Ditto - - - - -	25 - -
W. G. Osborn	Minerals in land in Festiniog	250 0 0	43 " 10 October 1883	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, first 5 years - - - - - Ditto - - - - -	1 - -
Bellon, Lewis, and Scratchley	Minerals and gold in land in Llanfachreth	333 3 0	31 " 5 April - "	Royalty - - - - - Minimum royalty, first 7 years - - - - - Ditto - - - - -	22 10 -

Ditto	ditto	Ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	200 0 0	21	"	5 April - "	Royalty - Minimum royalty, first 7 years Ditto - "	One-fifteenth 10 - - 20 - -	22 10 -
Ditto	ditto	Ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	298 0 0	21	"	5 April - "	Royalty - Minimum royalty, first 7 years Ditto - "	One-fifteenth 10 - - 20 - -	22 10 -
Henry Hands	-	Minerals in land in Llanyddell	-	-	-	-	-	-	218 0 15	20½	"	5 January 1886	Royalty - Minimum royalty Ditto - "	One-eighteenth 10 - - 20 - -	7 10 -
Ditto	-	Ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	198 2 0	20½	"	5 January	Royalty - Minimum royalty Ditto - "	One-eighteenth 10 - - 20 - -	7 10 -
Ditto	-	Ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	143 0 30	20½	"	5 April - "	Royalty - Minimum royalty Ditto - "	One-eighteenth 10 - - 20 - -	6 - -
Various	-	Rents of Take Notes and other small acknowledgments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	863 16 11
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY.															
Various	-	Free Farm Rents -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	13 1 6½	19 1 6½
COUNTY OF BRECON.															
Various	-	Free Farm and Collection Rents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	70 15 0	70 15 0
COUNTY OF CARDIGAN.															
Various	-	Free Farm and Collection Rents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	100 7 -½	97 1 7
J. G. P. Hughes	-	SURFACE RENTS, LEASES (Lands, Forclosures, &c.):	-	-	-	-	-	-	158 0 0	21 years from 10 October 1882	-	-	2 - -	-	-
E. L. Gatacre	-	Foreshore at Llanisintfrail and Llanrhyddid	-	-	-	-	-	-	21 3 17	31	"	10 October 1865	1 - -	1 - -	-
Ditto	-	Land called Brynglas, parish of Llanbadarnfawr	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 3 0	60	"	10 October	- 13 -	- 13 -	-
Powell Consolidated Lead Mining Company.	-	Land and cottage at Brynglas, parish of Llanbadarnfawr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	"	5 July - 1873	20 - -	20 - -	-
Elizabeth Davies	-	Watercourse in the lordship of Powarth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mayor, &c. of Aberystwith	-	Land and cottage in parish of Gwnws (Encroachment, No. 46).	-	-	-	-	-	-	49 0 30	30	"	10 October 1879	5 - -	5 - -	-
East Darren Mines Company	-	License to lay down and maintain water pipes, and take water from Llyn Llygad Rhedol.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	"	10 October	5 - -	5 - -	-
John Morgan	-	Pentrevelion ponds and watercourses -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	"	10 October 1881	5 - -	5 - -	-
Pryse and Morgan	-	Land and buildings in parish of Gwnws (Encroachments, Nos. 28 and 29).	-	-	-	-	-	-	26 1 0	21	"	10 October 1882	8 - -	8 - -	-
Lewis Williams	-	Right to maintain a fence between sheepwalks of Blaenfaethnant and Henhafod.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	"	10 October	3 - -	3 - -	-
Ditto	-	Soil of Blaenfaethnant and Steddagerri sheepwalks, Llanbadarnfawr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,550 0 0	31	"	5 April - 1883	9 - -	9 - -	-
Miss Susannah Williams	-	Soil of Abergeirgri sheepwalk, Gwnws -	-	-	-	-	-	-	901 0 0	31	"	10 October 1884	5 5 -	5 5 -	-
Various	-	Land in Llanbadarnfawr (Encroachments, 105A and 105B), with liberty to maintain fences.	-	-	-	-	-	-	44 2 23	21	"	10 October 1880	3 10 -	3 10 -	-
	-	Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130 10 10	130 10 10	-
														£.	197 14 10

PARTICULARS of Revenue, with Rents received, in Year 1887-88—continued.

LESSEE.	PREMISES LEASED.	Area.	TERM.	ANNUAL RENTS OR ROYALTIES.		Amount Received in Year ended 31st March 1888.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
COUNTY OF CARDIGAN—contd.						
Earl of Lisburne	Sporting over land in Gwnws	8,710 3 19	10 years from 5 April - 1879	48 - -	—	48 - -
Sir P. Prye	Ditto - - - Llanbadarnfawr	11,300 0 0	10 " 5 April - 1878	15 - -	—	15 - -
T. S. G. Kirkpatrick	Ditto - - - ditto	2,373 0 0	9½ " 10 October 1880	5 - -	—	7 - -
J. Jenkins	Ditto - - - Manor of Harminlog	—	1 year to 5 April - 1888	1 - -	—	1 - -
PROFITS OF MINES:						
J. G. P. Hughes	Stone from foreshore at Llanasintffraid and Llanrhystid	158 0 0	21 years from 10 October 1882	1 d. per ton 2 d. "	—	—
Earl of Lisburne	Boulders, &c., in land at Gwnws, Rhodie, and Llanllar	—	31 " 5 April 1865	1 - -	—	1 - -
Bulcombe, Fauntleroy, and Clayton	Minerals in land in town-ship of Llanbadarn-y-Croythin	798 0 0	21 " 10 October 1868	1 - - One-fourteenth 10 - - 20 - - 30 - -	—	31 - -
Barker and Wenham	Minerals in land in parish of Llanbadarnfawr (Great W. Van Mine).	350 0 0	31 " 10 October 1882	One-twentieth 25 - - 5 - -	—	5 - -
Ditto	Minerals in land in parish of Llanbadarnfawr (W. Esgair lle Mine).	679 0 0	31 " 10 October "	One-twentieth 25 - - 5 - -	—	13 17 11
John and Richard Taylor	Minerals in land in parish of Llanbadarnfawr	312 0 0	21 " 10 October 1871	1 - - One-fourteenth 50 - -	—	51 - -
F. W. Snell and others	Ditto - - - ditto	350 0 37	31 " 5 April 1872	One-sixteenth 10 - - 20 - - 30 - - 10 - -	—	10 - -
Richards and Thomas	Ditto - - - ditto	301 1 21	21 " 5 April 1873	One-eighth 10 - - 20 - - 30 - -	—	—

	Ditto	700 0 0	20½	5 April	1880	Royalty reduced as to part of sett to Minimum royalty - Ditto - reduced oncerta in condit-ions to	One-eighteenth One-twentieth 50 - - 12 10 -
Green, Kirkpatrick, and Nugent -	Ditto - - - ditto - - ditto - (Nantycwlla) -	700 0 0	20½	"	5 April	1880	12 10 -
William Thomas	Ditto - - - ditto - - ditto - - -	490 0 0	21	"	10 October	1886	10 - -
P. and J. E. Baker and James McIlquham.	Minerals in land in parish of Gwyns (Esgair Mwyn and Esgair Ddu).	1,080 0 0	31	"	10 October	"	10 - -
Various	Rents of Take Nctes and other small acknowledgments	-	-	-	-	-	7 - -
COUNTY OF CARMARTHEN:							150 8 11
Various	FEE FARM RENTS - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	412 18 7½
Eliza Jones' executors	SURFACE RENTS, LEASES (Lands, Foreshores, &c.):						400 16 1½
Mrs. A. Harris' executors	Land with house and garden in Quay-street, Carmarthen	-	-	60 years from 10 October	1850		1 - -
John Davies	Cwmbyr Uchaf in the Manor of Talley	-	-	99 "	20 October	1820	- 4 -
Representatives of Miss E. G. Stepany.	Danyralitfawr in the Manor of Talley	-	-	99 "	28 Nov.	1829	- 2 6 -
Sir A. C. Stepany	Piece of lan l, dock, &c., part of shore of River Burry	-	-	87½ "	5 April	1852	94 - -
Messrs. Neville & Co.	Piece of land, with six messuages, part of shore of River Burry	-	-	70 "	5 April	"	33 - -
C. W. Neville	Five pieces of land at Pontbrey, part of shore of River Burry	-	-	21 "	5 April	1883	20 - -
J. H. Rees	Land Cambria Copper Works, buildings, dock, and reservoir, part of shore of River Burry.	-	-	77 "	5 April	1852	150 - -
Ditto	Land with messuages thereon, part of shore of River Burry	-	-	80 "	5 April	"	55 - -
Williams, Druce, and Neville	Reclaimed land in parish of Pembrey	26 0 25	60	"	5 July	1860	5 - -
C. W. Neville	Ditto - - - ditto - - -	9 0 7	37 years and 89 days from 7 April 1883.	"	"	"	- 1 -
Various	Land on foreshore at Llanelly Harbour	9 2 28	72 years from 10 October	1867	"	"	90 - -
	Land in parish of Llanelly	-	80 "	10 October	1873	"	40 - -
	Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings.	-	-	-	-	-	36 11 1
							519 9 11
SPORTING RENTS:							
D. L. Price	Sporting over land and water in Talley and Llansawel	205 0 0	10 years from 5 April	1886	"	"	5 5 -
J. W. B. W. Bund	Sporting over land in Cilycwm and Cayo	8,059 1 24	10 "	5 April	1884	"	22 - -
F. A. G. Jones	Sporting over land and water in Talley	182 3 10	10 "	5 April	"	"	3 - -
J. P. V. Price	Sporting over land and water in Lordship of Mabedryd	3,063 1 31	10 "	5 April	"	"	15 - -
							40 - -

PARTICULARS of Revenue, with Rents received, in Year 1887-88—continued.

LESSEE.	PREMISES LEASED.	Area.	TERM.	ANNUAL RENTS OR ROYALTIES.	Amount received in Year ended 31st March 1888.
COUNTY OF CARMARTHEN —continued.					
J. W. M. G. Hughes	PROFITS OF MINES: Quarries of stone (except slate) in land in Llanfihangel-y-Roth.	A. R. P. 449 3 38	31 years from 10 October 1884	Rent - - - - -	£. s. d. - 1 -
Various	Rents of Take Notes and other small acknowledgments	-	-	-	8 11 -
Williams, Druce, and Nevill	Undersea: Coal, cannel, bituminous shale, ironstone, and fireclay in foreshore at Llanelli (Old Castle Colliery).	-	1 year to 10 October 1888	Royalty on coal, cannel, and bituminous shale. Royalty on ironstone and fireclay - 5d. " Ditto - coal from "Bushey" seam - 3d. " Minimum royalty - 800 -	470 12 10
Richard Evans	Coal, cannel, bituminous shale, ironstone, and fireclay in foreshore at Llanelli.	125 0 0	31½ years from 5 July 1879	Royalty - - - - - Wayleave royalty - 1d. " Minimum royalty - 50 -	100 - -
J. and T. Thomas	Coal, cannel, bituminous shale, ironstone, and fireclay in foreshore at Llanelli.	46 0 0	16 " 10 October 1886	Royalty on coal, cannel, and bituminous shale from seams 3 feet thick. Royalty on other coal, &c. - 5d. " Ditto - ironstone and fireclay - 4d. " Minimum royalty, 1st year - 5 - Ditto - 2nd year - 20 - Ditto - afterwards - 50 -	96 15 10
COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN:				£.	670 - 8
Various	FEE FARM RENTS - - - - -	-	-	- 16 8	- 16 8
COUNTY OF PEMBROKE:					
Various	FEE FARM AND COLLECTION RENTS - - - - -	-	-	316 1 -	312 14 8
Thomas Davies	SURFACE RENTS, LEASES (Lands, Foreshores, &c.): Foreshore at Galleyswick Bay, Milford Haven - - -	6 1 17	21 years from 10 October 1881	1 - -	1 - -
Phiguard Harbour Improvement Company.	Ditto - with works thereon at Fishguard - - -	1 8 36	31 " 10 October 1801	3 - -	-
Executrix of T. Edwards	Ditto - of River Tivy - - -	-	31 " 10 October 1865	2 - -	-
De Winton and others	Ditto - near Herbrandston, Milford Haven - - -	58 8 30	31 " 10 October 1895	2 - -	2 - -

	Ditto - at St. Bride's Bay	-	-	-	-	-	40 2 0	21	"	5 April 1885	—	1 —
	Ditto - at Hubberston	-	-	-	-	-	8 1 38	21	"	10 October 1880	—	1 —
	Ditto - with Gridiron at Neyland	-	-	-	-	-	6 0 0	21	"	5 April 1887	—	5 15 —
	Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings.	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	5 15 —
PROFITS OF MINES:												
Lord Kensington	Ironstone and iron ore in foreshore at St. Bride's Bay	-	-	-	-	-	40 2 0	21 years from 5 April	1885	{	Royalty on ironstone and iron ore	—
T. H. Davies	Sand, shingle, &c. in foreshore at Habberston	-	-	-	-	-	8 1 38	21	"	10 October 1886	{	Ditto - all other stone
												Royalty
COUNTY OF RADNOR:												
Various	FEE FARM RENTS.	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—
	SURFACE RENTS, LEASES (Lands, Foreshores, &c.):											
Various	Rents and acknowledgments for encroachments and other small holdings.	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—
	SPORTING RENTS:											
H. H. Meredith	Sporting over land in Beguidy and Llanbister	-	-	-	-	-	4,518 3 13	21 years from 5 April	1882	—	—	—
C. J. Naylor	Ditto - Manor of South Ugre	-	-	-	-	-	2,028 2 4	10	"	5 April 1879	—	—
James Wood	Ditto - Beguidy and Llanbister	-	-	-	-	-	2,588 1 28	10	"	5 April 1887	—	—
	PROFITS OF MINES:											
Various	Rents of Take Notes, and other small acknowledgments	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH:												
Various	FEE FARM AND VICONTIEL RENTS	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—

LAND REVENUE, WALES.

SUMMARY of RECEIPTS during Year ended 31st March 1888.

	Fee Farm and Collection Rents.	Surface Rents, Lands, Foreshores, &c.	Sporting Rents.	Profits of Mines.	TOTAL
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
ANGLESEY - - - - -	145 8 3	169 15 -	- - -	34 2 8	
CARNARVON - - - - -	176 - 7	1,262 - 1	43 - -	4,778 8 10	
DENBIGH - - - - -	802 13 5½	152 13 4	334 - -	67 - -	
FLINT - - - - -	81 3 -	130 6 -	- - -	305 18 3	
MERIONETH - - - - -	81 2 8½	451 8 -	198 10 -	1,923 6 5	
MONTGOMERY - - - - -	13 1 6½	-	-	-	
BRECON - - - - -	76 15 6	-	-	-	
CARDIGAN - - - - -	97 1 7	197 14 10	71 - -	150 8 11	
CARMARTHEN - - - - -	400 16 1½	519 9 11	40 - -	670 - 8	
GLAMORGAN - - - - -	- 16 8	-	-	-	
PEMBROKE - - - - -	312 14 8	16 10 -	-	-	
RADNOR - - - - -	34 9 5½	19 15 1	57 - -	1 - -	
MCMOUTH - - - - -	116 6 10½	-	-	-	
TOTAL - - - £.	2,388 10 5½	2,919 14 3	743 10 -	7,990 5 9	13,932 - 5½

APPENDIX, No. 11.

PAPER handed in by Colonel *Nigel Kingscote*, C.B., 28 June 1889.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE, 1882.

Mr. LITTLE's Report, p. 95.—Parliamentary Papers, Vol. XV. (1882), p. 103.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD'S LANDED ESTATES.

STATEMENT of the Percentage which the EXPENDITURE for FIXED CHARGES, MANAGEMENT, REPAIRS, and WORKS respectively bears to RENTS for the Years 1879 or 1880.

Communicated by *T. T. Wing*, Esq., Bedford Office, Bloomsbury.

ESTATE.	Rents (1).		Per Centages of Expenditure.										
			Fixed Charges (2).		Management.		Repairs.		Works, including Churches and Schools (3).		TOTAL.		
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	
	£.	£.											
Woburn - - - -	18,524	25,494	27·8	20·6	13·6	9·5	24·9	17·2	53·0	35·6	119·3	82·9	
Bedford - - - -	11,276	14,659	25·6	20·1	13·4	10·1	22·0	13·3	16·7	12·1	77·7	55·6	
Thorney - - - -	20,613	26,165	48·4	39·6	10·6	8·4	17·1	17·1	20·5	18·5	96·6	83·6	
Wansford - - - -	3,422	4,991	20·4	14·2	2·4	1·5	30·7	19·0	14·6	18·6	68·1	53·3	
Devon and Cornwall -	21,427	27,760	10·0	7·7	10·0	7·3	20·7	13·2	18·6	7·3	59·3	35·5	
Dorset - - - -	2,064	2,956	32·6	22·5	3·1	1·8	6·2	12·9	-	2·0	41·9	39·2	
TOTALS and Percentages of Totals - - - }	77,326	102,025	29·3	22·3	12·2	8·8	22·7	17·6	26·4	18·3	90·6	67·	

NOTES ON THE FOREGOING STATEMENT.

(1) **Rents.**—This is to be read as rents received, not rental. By reason of the large remissions in these two years (viz., 50 per cent. in 1879, and 25 per cent. in 1880) a rental statement would mislead. Woods are excluded.

(2) **Fixed charges** comprise land tax, property tax, tithe (if any), quit or chief rents, local rates, drainage taxes. Voluntary stipends paid to the clergy where the Duke is the tithe owner, family, personal and voluntary charges, annuities, pensions, charities, &c., are not included.

(3) It should be noted that this is not a case of an estate which has been long neglected, and where a large and exceptional expenditure has to be made in consequence of that neglect. For many years past, and indeed for generations, the work of improvement has been going on. Of course, the percentage of the different items of expenditure is doubled in 1879, because it remained the same in amount, while the income was diminished by one-half.

Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1882—continued.

ABSTRACT of YEARLY RECEIPTS on Lord De L'Isle and Dudley's Penshurst Estate of about 4,500 Acres, from 1871 to 1880 inclusive.

Communicated by F. Sturgess, Esq., Empingham, Stamford.

ACCOUNT.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	Total Receipts.
Rents - - - - -	£. s. d. 5,601 7 9	£. s. d. 5,684 5 1	£. s. d. 5,657 10 2	£. s. d. 5,785 4 5	£. s. d. 5,826 14 1	£. s. d. 5,615 10 7	£. s. d. 5,792 13 8	£. s. d. 5,715 11 8	£. s. d. 5,894 12 6	£. s. d. 5,800 5 7	£. s. d. 57,373 15 6
Amount received for timber, under-wood, &c. - - - - -	423 - -	285 13 11	244 12 10	970 6 10	1,434 4 9	561 5 4	980 10 10	982 17 11	480 1 6	575 - 3	6,937 14 2
TOTAL YEARLY RECEIPTS - £.	6,024 7 9	5,969 19 -	5,902 3 -	6,755 11 3	7,260 18 10	6,176 15 11	6,773 4 6	6,998 9 7	6,374 14 -	6,375 5 10	64,311 9 8

ABSTRACT of YEARLY PAYMENTS on Lord De L'Isle and Dudley's Penshurst Estate, from 1871 to 1880 inclusive.

ACCOUNT.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	Total Expenditure.	Percentage of Total Receipts.
Agency and audit expenses - - - - -	£. s. d. 270 17 3	£. s. d. 273 1 7	£. s. d. 279 - 7	£. s. d. 272 17 -	£. s. d. 269 10 -	£. s. d. 247 0 6	£. s. d. 250 5 6	£. s. d. 245 3 6	£. s. d. 254 11 -	£. s. d. 247 14 -	£. s. d. 2,610 15 11	4.1
Building - - - - -	760 6 4	623 12 7	962 16 4	616 10 4	1,047 6 11	998 9 3	1,790 4 11	1,239 2 9	1,533 4 1	913 19 9	10,494 13 3	16.3
Castle building repairs - - - - -	- - -	- - -	243 7 7	574 11 6	896 1 5	572 7 11	548 14 9	282 8 10	236 14 11	112 2 1	3,466 9 -	5.4
Donations and insurances - - - - -	63 13 -	61 13 -	64 18 -	61 8 -	62 18 -	59 8 -	66 16 -	71 9 -	73 14 3	71 8 3	657 5 6	1.0
Improvements - - - - -	125 12 4	214 7 2	284 13 7	219 13 -	225 14 9	396 14 11	458 11 2	191 7 4	187 17 7	220 7 1	2,474 18 11	3.8
Rents, rates, and taxes - - - - -	238 18 -	351 17 9	311 10 2	429 12 7	188 6 7	298 14 1	298 15 9	337 10 1	826 3 -	369 19 -	3,151 7 -	4.9
TOTAL YEARLY EXPENDITURE - £.	1,459 6 11	1,524 12 1	2,086 6 3	2,174 12 5	2,690 6 8	2,573 - 8	3,422 8 1	2,867 1 6	2,612 4 10	1,935 10 2	22,855 9 7	35.5

Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1882—*continued*.

Mr. DRUCE's Report, Bedfordshire, p. 9.—Parliamentary Papers, Vol. XV. (1882), p. 257.

In my former report I stated the large remissions of rent which the Duke of Bedford had made to his farm tenants in this county in the years 1879 and 1880.

Since that report was written I have been furnished with, and am permitted to publish the following statement of the percentage which the expenditure for fixed charges, management, repairs, and works on his Grace's Estate of Woburn and Bedford bears to the rents actually received from those estates for the two above-mentioned years.

ESTATE.	Rents actually Received.		Percentage of Expenditure.									
			Fixed Charges.		Management.		Repairs.		Works, including Churches and Schools.		TOTAL.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
	£.	£.										
Woburn - -	18,524	25,494	27·8	20·6	13·6	9·5	24·9	17·2	53·0	35·6	119·3	82·9
Bedford - -	11,276	14,659	25·6	20·1	13·4	10·1	22·0	13·3	16·7	12·1	77·7	55·6

In the above statement the woods on the estates are not included. By "Fixed Charges" are meant Imperial and local charges, such as land tax (which is partly redeemed), property tax, tithe which, when payable, is paid by the Duke and not by the tenants, quit or chief rents, drainage taxes, and local rates. The voluntary stipends paid to the clergy at Woburn, where the Duke is tithe owner, is not included, nor are payments for charities, pensions or annuities of estate servants, or family or personal expenses.

Mr. DRUCE's Report, Cambridgeshire, p. 19.—Parliamentary Papers, Vol. XV. (1882), p. 267.

As evidence of the effect of the depression on landlords who have made large remissions of rent, I quote the following statement relating to the Duke of Bedford's estate at Thorney, in this county, which has been sent to me by his Grace's agent, and which I am permitted to publish.

THORNEY ESTATE.

STATEMENT of the Percentage which the EXPENDITURE for FIXED CHARGES, MANAGEMENT, REPAIRS, and WORKS respectively bears to the Rents actually received for the years 1879 and 1880 :—

	1879.	1880.
Rents received - - -	£. 20,613.	£. 26,165.

PERCENTAGE OF EXPENDITURE.

Fixed Charges.		Management.		Repairs.		Works, including Churches and Schools.		TOTAL.	
1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
48·4	39·6	10·6	8·4	17·1	17·1	20·5	18·5	96·6	83·6

The "Fixed Charges" comprise land tax (if any), property tax, quit or chief rents (if any), drainage taxes and local rates, or, in a word, "Imperial and local charges." They do not include the voluntary stipends which the Duke pays to the clergy at Thorney where his Grace is tithe owner. All pensions and annuities of an estate nature, and other voluntary charges, and all family and personal payments, are excluded from the above statement.

Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1882—*continued.*

Mr. DRUCE's Report, Northamptonshire, p. 70.—Parliamentary Papers, Vol. XV. (1882), p. 318.

I HAVE been furnished with two very complete analyses of accounts for a series of years relating to estates, the bulk of which in each case, is situate in this county. They are as follows :—

I.

ANALYSIS of ESTATE ACCOUNTS from 1858 to 1878.

1858 to 1878.	GROSS RECEIPTS.			£.	s.	d.
	The gross receipts from every source during this period amounted to -			952,483	5	-
(A.)	DISBURSEMENTS.			£.	s.	d.
	Rates and taxes - - - - -			28,124	12	3
(A.)	Regular and fixed payments - - - - -			32,830	-	7½
(B.)	Buildings - - - - -			146,674	15	7½
	Gates and fences - - - - -			22,806	12	11½
	Woods and plantations - - - - -			25,908	19	9
	Under-draining - - - - -			5,545	17	3½
(C.)	Voluntary payments - - - - -			6,815	1	8
	Incidental payments - - - - -			7,194	-	10½
	Entertainment of tenants - - - - -			3,208	13	4
	Brickyard - - - - -			9,011	7	1½
	Smithy - - - - -			3,199	18	6
	Horses, carriages, &c. - - - - -			9,769	5	6
	Agency - - - - -			39,940	13	3½
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS - - - - -	£.		341,029	18	9
	Net Income - - - - -			611,453	6	3
			£.	952,483	5	-
(A.)	Regular and fixed payments include tithes, quit-rents and fixed, not family, charges on land.					
(B.)	Buildings.—This heading includes general repairs to farms and cottages, and the erection of a considerable number of new buildings. In addition to the above expenditure the sum of 22,630 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> was expended in the erection of farmhouses, new cottages, &c.; these payments were made direct, and not passed through the estate accounts.					
(C.)	Voluntary payments.—These payments include various subscriptions to schools, clothing clubs, &c.					
1858-78	During this period land, &c., was purchased at a cost of 197,093 <i>l.</i> , and the amount realised by sales of land, &c., amounted to 98,171 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>					
	PERCENTAGE.			£.	s.	d.
	The percentage that the total disbursements of 341,029 <i>l.</i> 18 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> bear to the gross receipts of 952,483 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> is - - - - -			35	16	1
	Percentage of rates and taxes to gross receipts - - - - -		£.	2	19	¼
	regular and fixed payments to gross receipts - - - - -			3	8	11
	buildings - - - - -			15	8	-
	gates and fences - - - - -			2	7	10½
	woods and plantations - - - - -			2	14	5
	under-draining - - - - -			-	11	8
	voluntary payments - - - - -			-	14	3½
	incidental payments - - - - -			-	15	1
	entertainment of tenants - - - - -			-	6	9
	brickyard - - - - -			-	18	11½
	smithy - - - - -			-	6	9
	horses, carriages, &c. - - - - -			1	-	6
	agency - - - - -			4	3	10
		£.		35	16	1
	Percentage of net income to gross receipts - - - - -			64	3	11
		£.		100	-	-

These accounts show how large a proportion (more than one-third) of the gross income of a large landed estate is consumed in estate expenses, and what a comparatively small part is left for the landlord for his private and family expenses even in prosperous times, before any remissions were made to tenants, or rents reduced. The estates to the accounts of which the above analysis relates are well and carefully managed and have been so for a great number of years past.

Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1882—*continued.*

II.

ANALYSIS of ESTATE ACCOUNTS from 1859 to 1878, inclusive.

1859 to 1878.	GROSS RECEIPTS.					£.	s.	d.
	°The gross receipts from every source during this period amounted to					1,196,792	6	1½
	DISBURSEMENTS.					£.	s.	d.
		Rates and taxes	-	-	-	30,786	8	11½
	(A.)	Regular and fixed payments	-	-	-	22,638	15	—½
	(B.)	Buildings	-	-	-	116,911	12	2½
		Gates and fences	-	-	-	12,795	12	11
		Woods and plantations	-	-	-	11,949	13	5
	(C.)	Under-draining	-	-	-	8,724	2	9
	(D.)	Voluntary payments	-	-	-	648	11	7
	Incidental payments	-	-	-	2,191	7	9½	
	Entertainment of tenants	-	-	-	3,171	19	5½	
	Brickyard	-	-	-	9,408	14	7½	
	Agency	-	-	-	33,479	5	8	
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS - - - £.					252,706	4	5½
	Net Income - - - - -					944,086	1	8
					£.	1,196,792	6	1½
° Of this sum since 1873, 19,772 <i>l.</i> 18 <i>s.</i> has been received for minerals.								
(A.)	Regular and fixed payments include tithes, quit-rents, and fixed, not family, charges on land.							
(B.)	Buildings.—This heading includes general repairs to farms and cottages, and the erection of a considerable number of new buildings. In addition to the above expenditure, the sum of 32,564 <i>l.</i> 9 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> was expended in the erection of farm houses, new cottages, &c.; these payments were made direct, and not passed through the estate accounts.							
(C.)	Under-draining.—In addition to the above expenditure the sum of 1,640 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> was expended in draining; the payment was made direct, and did not pass through the estate accounts.							
(D.)	Voluntary payments.—These payments include various subscriptions to schools, clothing clubs, &c., but a much larger sum has been paid direct, and not passed through the estate accounts.							
PERCENTAGE.								
The percentage that the total disbursements of 252,706 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>s.</i> 5½ <i>d.</i> bear to the gross receipts of 1,196,792 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i> 1½ <i>d.</i> is						£.	s.	d.
						21	2	3½
Percentage of rates and taxes to gross receipts						£.	s.	d.
" regular and fixed payments to ditto						2	11	5½
" buildings						1	17	10
" gates and fences						9	15	4½
" woods and plantations						1	1	4½
" under-draining						—	19	11½
" voluntary payments						—	14	7
" incidental payments						—	1	1
" entertainment of tenants						—	3	8
" brickyard						—	5	3½
" agency						—	15	8½
						2	15	11½
£.						21	2	3½
Percentage of net income to gross receipts						78	17	8½
£.						100	—	—

The average annual sum expended on buildings, according to the foregoing account, No. II., was (excluding the 32,564*l.* mentioned in the note), about 11,690*l.*, and 10,155*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* was spent in the same way in 1879, and 9,751*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* in 1880. The average annual sum spent in under-draining for the 10 years was about 870*l.*; but in 1879, 2,059*l.*, and in 1880, 3,696*l.*, were spent in the same way. The average percentage of payments to gross receipts on these estates is not so large as the first case, being rather more than one-fifth only, instead of more than one-third. These estates, like the first, are well and carefully managed.

Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1882—continued.

The percentage which the expenditure for fixed charges, management, and repairs and works respectively, on the Duke of Bedford's Estate at Wadsford, in this county, bore to the rents actually received, in the years 1879 and 1880 was as follows :—

	1879.	1880.
Rents received - - -	<u>£ 3,422</u>	<u>£. 4,991</u>

PERCENTAGE OF EXPENDITURE.

Fixed Charges.		Management.		Repairs.		Works, including Churches and Schools.		TOTAL.	
1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
20·4	14·2	2·4	1·5	30·7	19·	14·6	18·6	68·1	53·3

The receipts from expenditure upon the woods are excluded from the foregoing statement. Fixed charges include land tax, property tax, tithe, quit, or chief rents; local rates and drainage taxes (if any), or, in a word, "Imperial and local charges." The Duke, not the tenant, pays the tithe. No family, personal, or voluntary charges, not even annuities or pensions to old estate servants, &c., or charities, are included.

APPENDIX, No. 12.

PAPER handed in by Colonel *Nigel Kingscote*, C.B., 2 July 1889.

STATEMENT showing the SUMS Advanced from CAPITAL for Permanent IMPROVEMENTS, and the Proportion Repaid out of INCOME from 1866 to 1889, inclusive, under the Provisions of the CROWN LANDS ACT, 1866, Section 1.

	£.	s.	d.
Sums advanced during the period ended 31st March 1878 - - - -	143,454	7	5
Repaid during that period - - - - -	29,666	1	3
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1878 - - - - -	113,788	6	2
Advanced during the year 1878-79 - - - - -	27,157	10	3
	140,945	16	5
Repaid during the year 1878-79 - - - - -	5,738	3	7
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1879 - - - - -	135,207	12	10
Advanced during the year 1879-80 - - - - -	28,074	18	8
	163,282	11	6
Repaid during the year 1879-80 - - - - -	6,824	9	7
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1880 - - - - -	156,458	1	11
Advanced during the year 1880-81 - - - - -	21,788	-	1
	178,246	2	-
Repaid during the year 1880-81 - - - - -	7,947	9	6
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1881 - - - - -	170,298	12	6
Advanced during the year 1881-82 - - - - -	17,149	3	3
	187,447	15	9
Repaid during the year 1881-82 - - - - -	8,818	19	11
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1882 - - - - -	178,628	15	10
Advanced during the year 1882-83 - - - - -	17,283	17	8
	195,912	13	6
Repaid during the year 1882-83 - - - - -	9,504	19	3
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1883 - - - - -	186,407	14	3
Advanced during the year 1883-84 - - - - -	28,083	3	6
	214,490	17	9
Repaid during the year 1883-84 - - - - -	10,196	6	4
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1884 - - - - -	204,294	11	5
Carried forward - - £.	204,294	11	5

STATEMENT showing the Sums Advanced from Capital for Permanent Improvements, &c.—*continued.*

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward, Balance outstanding on } 31st March 1884 - - - - - }	204,294	11	5
Advanced during the year 1884-85 - - - - -	24,473	18	1
	228,768	9	6
Repaid during the year 1884-85 - - - - -	11,319	12	10
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1885 - - - - -	217,448	16	8
Advanced during the year 1885-86 - - - - -	19,867	1	11
	237,315	18	7
Repaid during the year 1885-86 - - - - -	12,298	11	11
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1886 - - - - -	225,017	6	8
Advanced during the year 1886-87 - - - - -	20,010	12	-
	245,027	18	8
Repaid during the year 1886-87 - - - - -	13,093	5	7
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1887 - - - - -	231,934	13	1
Advanced during the year 1887-88 - - - - -	13,061	12	-
	244,996	5	1
Repaid during the year 1887-88 - - - - -	13,893	14	1
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1888 - - - - -	231,102	11	-
Advanced during the year 1888-89 - - - - -	7,564	6	8
	238,666	17	8
Repaid during the year 1888-89 - - - - -	14,416	3	4
Balance outstanding on 31st March 1889 - - - - -	224,250	14	4

APPENDIX, No. 13.

PAPER handed in by Colonel *Nigel Kingscote*, C.B., 28 June 1889.

CASH ACCOUNT from 1st to 31st January 1888.

N A M E.	O F F I C E.	S T A T I O N, &c.
John Clutton - - - {	Receiver - - - - -	Counties of Surrey, Cambridge, &c.
	Steward - - - - -	Manor of Richmond, Honor and Manor of Hampton Court, &c.

Received on the 15th March 1888.

Examined on the 22nd March 1888.

INSTRUCTIONS to be particularly attended to in making up the CASH ACCOUNT.

1st. The Receipts are to be entered at the beginning of the Account, in the order in which the heads are printed in the Account Current (or Final Sheet).

2nd. The Receipts are to comprise *Gross Sums*, and any charges deducted therefrom are to be included under their proper heads as *Payments*.

3rd. The detailed items under each head of Receipts are to be shown in the inner Cash Column, headed "Separate Sums," and the Total of each head carried into the outer column, headed "Total Sums;" these total sums are to be carried to the Account Current. Receipts which are detailed in the Annual Rental, or in a Subsidiary List, such as Account Sales, &c., may be entered in gross under their proper heads.

4th. The Payments are to be entered after the Receipts, commencing at the next folio; they are to be classed under the various heads in the order observed in the Account Current (or Final Sheet). The description of the service is to be given fully; the detailed sums are to be entered in the column headed "Separate Sums," and the total amount under each head is to be carried out into the column headed "Total Sums;" these total sums are to be carried to the Account Current under their proper heads.

5th. The Vouchers are to be numbered consecutively throughout, adopting only one series of numbers for both Receipts and Payments. Separate Vouchers are to be produced for every payment. The authorities under which sums have been paid, and the date thereof, are to be inserted on the face of every Voucher, as well as against the entry of the Payments in the body of the Account, in the column appropriated to that purpose. In cases in which allowances are made upon a Rental, such as Property Tax, Land Tax, &c., the Rental, containing the particulars of such Allowances, is to be considered the Voucher, and is to be rendered with the last Monthly Account of each Year, and the total under each head of Allowances is to be entered Monthly in the Accounts.

CASH ACCOUNT from 1st to 31st January 1888.

Date.	S E R V I C E.	Receiver's Authority and Date thereof.	Treasury Authority and Date thereof.	Number of Voucher.	Separate Sums.	Total Sums.	REMARKS, &c., at the Office of Woods.
1888: January							
	Balance from last Account ending 31st December 1887	-	-	-	£. s. d. -	£. s. d. 297 5 3	
	RECEIPTS AND SALES:						
	Crown Rents and Duties	-	-	-	-	13,751 6 6	
	Sales of Produce:						
	Stagden - as per Sale Sheet	-	-	-	9 19 -		
	Salcey Woods - ditto	-	-	-	6 17 -		
	Hazelboro' Woods - ditto	-	-	-	3 10 -		
	Esher Woods - ditto	-	-	-	40 - -		
	Bishops Cannings - ditto	-	-	-	255 - -		
	Bromham - ditto	-	-	-	170 - -		
				1		477 6 -	
	MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS.						
	Stagden: Wick End Farm—In hand:						
	Amount received for cattle, wheat, &c., as per list	-	-	2	177 14 2	-	
	Portland:						
	William Butt, for crane on pier: field held by Mr. Thomas Comben	-	-	3 and 4	13 14 -	-	
	Wingland: Wingland Grange Farm—Lately in hand:						
	B. and G. T. Prior, for valuation as incoming tenants of Wingland Grange Farm	-	-	-	-	-	
	Land in hand (late Pratt):						
	Amount received for rents of cottages, as per list	-	-	-	-	-	
	Shroob Walk Farm—In hand:						
	Amount received for sheep, pigs, &c., as per list	-	-	2	730 7 8	-	A certified copy valuation accom- panies this Account.
				2	171 0 -	-	

Wickwood :		Potter's Hill Farm—In hand :	2	1	6	—
Amount received for a dead beast, &c., as per list		—	—	—	—	—
Wingland :		Repayment of Property Tax :	5	45	5	8
Amount received from the Board of Inland Revenue, being amount due to Mr. Henry Crawley, in respect of repayment of Property Tax on remissions of rent for farm on the Whaplode and Moulton Estate		—	—	—	—	—
Credits to Repairs and Improvements.		—	—	—	—	—
Wingland :		Roads—Maintenance :	—	—	—	—
Robert Pratt, proportion of the cost of the maintenance of roads for the year to Michaelmas 1887		—	—	—	—	—
Credits to Rates and Taxes.		—	—	—	—	—
Esher Woods :		—	—	—	—	—
Sir William Vincent, for proportion of poor and church rates, made 14th October 1886, and 21st April and 2nd May 1887, at 2s. 10d. per £. on 8 1/2., and tithe rent-charge for year to 1st October 1887, proposed to be apportioned at 17s. per annum in respect of land let to him		—	—	—	—	—
The Mines Account.		—	—	—	—	—
Stageden :		—	—	—	—	—
Samuel Foster, for 89 kilns of lime from the stone pits at 5s.		—	—	—	—	—
Royalties received under licences granted		—	—	—	—	—
SUMMARY OF SALES.		—	—	—	—	—
	Amount Due 31 December 1887.	Value of Sales.	TOTAL.	Cash Received.	Amount Due 31 January 1888.	
Stageden	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Great Staughton	40 - -	2 19 -	2 19 -	2 19 -	- - -	
Salcey Woods	16 2 6	6 17 -	22 19 6	6 17 -	16 2 6	
Hazelboro' Woods	- - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	2 10 -	- - -	
Esher Woods	- - -	40 - -	40 - -	40 - -	- - -	
Bishops Cannings	- - -	255 - -	255 - -	255 - -	- - -	
Bromham	- - -	170 - -	170 - -	100 - -	70 - -	
TOTAL - £.	56 2 6	477 6 -	533 8 6	447 6 -	86 2 6	

	Amount Due 31 December 1887.	Value of Sales.	TOTAL.	Cash Received.	Amount Due 31 January 1888.
Stagden - - -	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Great Staughton -	- - -	2 19 -	2 19 -	2 19 -	- - -
Salcey Woods -	40 - -	- - -	40 - -	40 - -	- - -
Hazelboro' Woods -	16 2 6	6 17 -	22 19 6	6 17 -	16 2 6
Esher Woods -	- - -	2 10 -	2 10 -	2 10 -	- - -
Bishops Cannings -	- - -	40 - -	40 - -	40 - -	- - -
Bromham - - -	- - -	255 - -	255 - -	255 - -	- - -
	- - -	170 - -	170 - -	100 - -	70 - -
TOTAL - £.	56 2 6	477 6 -	533 8 6	447 6 -	86 2 6

CASH ACCOUNT, from 1st to 31st January 1888—continued.

Date.	S E R V I C E.	Receiver's Authority and Date thereof.	Treasury Authority and Date thereof.	Number of Voucher.	Separate Suma.	Total Suma.	REMARKS, &c., at the Office of Woods.
1888: January	PAYMENTS. Gedney: CROWN RENTS—DEBITS. James Tyler, gratuity - - - - - SALARIES and PERCENTAGES of RECEIVERS and STEWARDS of MANORS, &c. John Clutton, commission, &c. - - - - - EXPENSES of RECEIVERS and STEWARDS of MANORS, &c. <i>Isle and Manor of Portland.</i> T. Sansom, refreshments and uses of room at audit, held at the Breakwater Hotel, Portland, 19th January 1888. <i>Billingborough:</i> T. G. Houghton, dinners at audit, held at the Fortescue Arms Hotel, Billingborough, 5th January 1888. <i>Wingland:</i> J. R. Clarke, dinners at audit, held at the Bridge Hotel, Sutton Bridge, 6th January 1888. <i>Honor and Manor of Hampton Court:</i> W. Ballard, dinners at Court, held at the Red Lion Hotel, Hampton, 10th November 1887 - - - W. Ballard, use of room at said Court - - - W. Benn, ringing bells of parish church on occasion of said Court - - - Henry Ruff, headle, attendance at said Court - - F. Russell, hoisting flag on parish church on occasion of said Court - - - <i>Manor of Egham:</i> Henry Darvill, for copy of Court Roll for the year, to Michaelmas 1887. <i>Stagden:</i> Repairs and IMPROVEMENTS of CROWN ESTATES. Samuel Foster, for 13 gates - - - Repairs to Cottages. S. Foster, for repairs to pump at cottage in occu- pation of Mrs. Hicks, and at Rotten-row - -	Letter from Office of Woods, 28 March 1887. File, No. 2293. - - - Letter from Office of Woods, 6 September 1875. File, No. 763. - - ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - ditto - - - Customary - - - - - - Letters from Office of Woods, 9 April 1875, 13 May 1881, 15 September 1876, and 7 September 1878. Files, Nos. 3, 11, 20, and 33. - - -	Treasury Letter, 20 March 1887. - - - Treasury Letter, 1 Sep- tember 1875. - - ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - ditto - - - Treasury Letter, 10 March 1876. - - ditto - - - Treasury Letter, 8 April 1875, 19 September 1876, 2 September 1878 - - Treasury Warrant, 27 May 1881 - - - For Treasury - - -	8 9 & 90 a 10 11 13 - 13 14 15 16	- - 3 17 9 5 10 6 12 5 6 - 12 4 6 1 3 2 -	350 - - 570 14 10 - - - - 35 11 5 -	

[illegible]

CASH ACCOUNT from 1st to 31st January 1888—continued.

Date.	S E R V I C E.	Receiver's Authority and Date thereof.	Treasury Authority and Date thereof.	Number of Voucher.	Separate Sums.	Total Sums.	REMARKS, &c., at the Office of Woods.
1888: January	<p>PAYMENTS—continued.</p> <p>REPAIRS and IMPROVEMENTS of CROWN ESTATES—continued.</p> <p><i>Great Staughton:</i></p> <p>Drainage:</p> <p>Pay lists of piece work from 31st December 1887 to 28th January 1888 - - - -</p> <p>Pay lists of day work for same period - - - -</p> <p>William Love, for drain pipes - - - -</p> <p><i>Eltham:</i></p> <p>Buildings:</p> <p>Thomas Knight, further on account for erection of house and pair of cottages for Horn Park Farm - - - -</p> <p>The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods, &c., for two monograms supplied from Windsor Great Park for said house and cottages - - - -</p> <p><i>Isle of Sheppey:</i></p> <p>Buildings, &c.:</p> <p>W. J. Beaumont, balance for erection of cartshed, and papering and painting the farmhouse on Cowstead Farm, held by Mr. Filmer; total - - - -</p> <p>Paid on account, 1887, July - - - -</p> <p>W. J. Beaumont, further on account for improvements to barn and cottages, providing additional water supply, and reinstating sluice in the sea bank on farm held by the representatives of the late Mr. Maxted - - - -</p> <p><i>Billingborne:</i></p> <p>Drainage of Farmhouse:</p> <p>J. Wadley and Son, for diverting the drainage of the farmhouse occupied by Mr. Caswell - - - -</p> <p><i>Holbeach:</i></p> <p>Roadmaking, &c.:</p> <p>William R. Millers further on account for farming, metalling, and fencing road on Flinthouse Farm, held by Messrs. Tinsley - - - -</p> <p><i>Wingland:</i></p> <p>Fencing:</p> <p>J. Faulkner and J. Thurlby for fencing stackyard on farm in their occupation. - - - -</p>	<p>Letters from Office of Woods, 3 February 1881; 21 January, and 25 July 1887. Files, Nos. 16, 18, and 15.</p> <p>Letter from Office of Woods, 22 July 1887. File, No. 686.</p> <p>Letter from Office of Woods, 25 February 1887. File, No. 40.</p> <p>- - ditto - - - -</p> <p>Letter from Office of Woods, 7 November 1887. File, No. 72.</p> <p>Letter from Office of Woods, 19 January 1887. File, No. 31.</p> <p>Letter from Office of Woods, 30 July 1887. File, No. 45.</p>	<p>Brought forward - - - -</p> <p>Treasury Letter, 29 January 1881.</p> <p>Treasury Letter, 17 January 1887.</p> <p>Treasury Letter, 21 July 1887.</p> <p>Treasury Letter, 1 July 1887.</p> <p>Treasury Letter, 23 February 1887.</p> <p>- - - -</p> <p>Treasury Letter, 4 November 1887.</p> <p>Treasury Warrant, 10 January 1887.</p> <p>Treasury Letter, 23 August 1884. Warrant, 1 December 1886.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29A & 23</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p> <p>31</p> <p>32</p> <p>33</p>	<p>£. s. d.</p> <p>93 12 3</p> <p>181 11 10</p> <p>101 8 -</p> <p>151 19 0</p> <p>25 15 -</p> <p>100 - -</p> <p>14 12 -</p>	<p>£. s. d.</p> <p>956 0 3</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>	<p>The sum of 181 l. 11 s. 10 d. is in respect of the grants for draining on the farms held by the following tenants, viz.:—</p> <p>Grant of 3rd February 1881, Mr. Minney, tenant - - - -</p> <p>Grant of 21st January 1887, Mr. Topham, tenant - - - -</p> <p>Grant of 25th July 1887, Mr. Ekins, tenant - - - -</p> <p>£. s. d.</p> <p>145 17 1</p> <p>34 12 7</p> <p>1 2 2</p> <p>£. 181 11 10</p> <p>Treasury Letter herewith.</p>

[illegible]

By Mem:
George Holmes, donation in lieu of poor-rate for the parish of
Egham, made 9th November 1887, at 1s. 2d. in the £. on
25 l. 5 s. for allotment gardens.

By Mr:

H. J. Storey, half-year's tithe rent-charge appor-
tioned at 2 l. 11 s. 2 d. per annum, due 1st October
1887 to the Rev. E. H. Rogers, and chargeable
on woods in hand in the parish of Thames
Ditton 1 2 4
J. Ledger, one year's land tax to 5th April 1888,
in respect of cottage and garden in occupation
of the woodman - 10 5

FIXED CHARGES, STIPENDS, AND ALLOWANCES:

Essex:

H. J. Storey, half-year's rent-charge due 28th December 1887 to
the Rev. E. H. Rogers in respect of Hatton's Bequest, and
chargeable under a will made by Mr. Hatton in 1703.
Leas property tax - - -

MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS:

Stagden:

Wick End Farm. In Hand.

Charles Bidwell, half-year's tithe rent-charge due
1st October 1887, apportioned at 77 l. 5 s. 4 d.
per annum, and due to the Masters and Fellows
of Trinity College, Cambridge, Impropriate
Rectors of Stagden 83 15 8
Ditto . . . ditto, apportioned at 40 l. 17 s. 10 d.
per annum, and due to the Rev. W. H. Jackson,
Vicar of Stagden 20 10 -
R. and J. Hewatson, for linseed cake 37 10 3
S. Foster, for repairs to barnhouse 17 10 1
Steel and Jones, for "Agricultural Gazette," from
20th September to 28th December 1887 - 2 9
Payments by O. J. Henman for labour, &c., in
carrying on the farm, as per list 43 - 5
O. J. Henman, four weeks' wages, from 29th Decem-
ber 1887 to 26th January 1888, at 2 l., and for
travelling expenses, &c. 8 12 4

Preparation of Produce for Sale:

Pay list of day-work from 6th December 1887 to
6th January 1888 - 5 -

Treasury Letter, 13 February
1884.

Letter from Office of Woods,
15 February 1884. File,
No. 60.

53

1 1 0

54 and 55 A.

55

1 12 9

30 13 3

-

10 - -

-

55 A. and 54

- 5 10

9 14 2

To be repaid

-

-

-

56

57

58

59

60

61

For details of the expenditure of
the 43 l. 0 s. 5 d. paid to the
caretaker, see sub-vouchers to
voucher 60.

Necessary expenditure

01 A. and 17

101 0 6

-

Carried forward

161 0 0

2,000 5 2

CASH ACCOUNT from 1st to 31st January 1888—continued.

Date.	S E R V I C E.	Receiver's Authority, and Date thereof.	Treasury Authority, and Date thereof.	Number of Voucher.	Separate Sums.	Total Sums.	REMARKS, &c., at the Office of Woods.
1888: January	<p>PAYMENTS—continued.</p> <p>Windsor: MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS—continued. Windsor and Eton Waterworks Company, one year's water rate to Christmas 1887, for water supplied to the 10 cottages in Park-place and King's-road, Sheet-street</p> <p>Hainault: Compensation to Mr. Alison. John Alison, half-year's rent to 10th October 1887, at 4 l. per acre per annum, in respect of 1 A. 0 R. 30 P. of land in his occupation from which gravel is taken under licence granted by the Crown</p> <p>Bristol (Becheat): Sun Fire Office, for insurance of warehouse and buildings at the sum of 2,600 l., for the year to Christmas 1888</p> <p>Billingborough: Land in hand (late Hackett). Tom Casswell, donation in lieu of highway rate for the parish of Pointon, made 23rd November 1887, at 10 d. in the £. on 43 l. 12 s. 6 d. Phoenix Fire Office, for insurance of produce at the sum of 200 l. for year to Christmas 1888 J. Brittain for thrashing</p> <p>Wingland: Wingland Grange Farm, lately in hand. S. and G. Kingeton, charges for valuation from the Crown to Messrs. B. and G. T. Prior, the incoming tenants— Lend in hand (late Pratt). William Oldfield, four weeks' wages 30th December 1887 to 27th January 1888, at 1 l.</p>	—	<p>Brought forward</p> <p>Treasury Letter, 10 March 1876.</p> <p>Repayable</p> <p>Deducted from amount paid to Mrs. Jeffries. See Commissioner of Woods' cash account for April 1888</p> <p>To be repaid</p> <p>To be repaid</p>	<p>—</p> <p>62</p> <p>63</p> <p>64</p> <p>65</p> <p>66</p> <p>67</p> <p>68</p> <p>69</p>	<p>£. s. d.</p> <p>161 6 6</p> <p>5 19 8</p> <p>2 7 6</p> <p>3 5 —</p> <p>5 13 6</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>26</p>	<p>£. s. d.</p> <p>2,068 5 2</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p>	<p>Repaid, see February 1888 account.</p> <p>Formerly 9 l. 15 s., owing to dangerous trade carried on. This has now ceased, and the premium is reduced to 3 l. 5 s. accordingly. The difference (6 l. 10 s.) was formerly repaid by the lessees.</p>

Salisbury Woods:	1	5	-	{ Letter from Office of Woods, 8 May 1878. File, No. 84.	Treasury Letter, 7 May 1878.	70			
James Hootton, compassionate allowance for five weeks from 26th December 1887 to 30th January 1888, as a late labourer in the woods, at 5s. per week.	1	-	-						
Charles Mitchell, similar allowance for four weeks from 31st December 1887 to 28th January 1888, at 5s. per week.	1	-	-	{ Letter from Office of Woods, 28 September 1885. File, No. 84.	Treasury Letter, 28 September 1885.		2	5	-
Hazleboro' Woods:									
Preparation of Produce for Sale.									
Pay-list of piece-work from 1st to 31st January 1888	-			Necessary expenditure		71	1	17	6
Shroob Walk Farm—In hand:									
Phoenix Fire Office, for insurance of stock and produce, at the sum of 3,100 l. for the year to Christmas 1888	7	15	-			72			
W. H. Sansom, donation in lieu of second instalment of poor rate for the parish of Passenham, made 14th October 1887, at 1 s. 4 d. in the £.	11	7	-			73			
on 340 l. 10 s.									
W. H. Sansom, donation in lieu of second instalment of poor rate for the parish of Stony Stratford, west, made 14th October 1887, at 1 s. 2 d. in the £. on 6 l. 17 s. 6 d.	-	4	-			74			
George Holman, donation in lieu of highway rate for the parish of Stony Stratford, west, made 28th October 1887, at 6 d. in the £. on 6 l. 17 s. 6 d.	-	3	6			75			
George Holman, one year's land tax to 5th April 1888, for the parish of Calverton	-	9	8			76			
R. and J. Hewetson, for linseed and cotton cake	38	2	-		To be repaid	77			
W. Walter, for repairs to house and buildings, &c.	30	14	8			78			
Thomas Amos, for thrashing, and for beans, &c.	14	15	-			79			
William Panter, for coal	8	12	4			80			
John Wilson, for repairs to harness, &c.	7	7	9			81			
Payments by A. Mannings for labour, &c. in carrying on the farm as per list	34	2	5			82			
A. Mannings, five weeks wages from 27th December 1877 to 31st January 1888, at 2 l., and for travelling expenses and postages	11	17	7			83			
							165	10	11
							374	5	7
					Carried forward	2.	2,008	5	2

For details of the expenditure of the 34 l. 2 s. 6 d. paid to the caretaker, see sub-vouchers to voucher 82.

CASH ACCOUNT from 1st to 31st January 1888—continued.

Date.	S E R V I C E.	Receiver's Authority and Date thereof.	Treasury Authority and Date thereof.	Number of Voucher.	Separate Sums.	Total Sums.	REMARKS, &c. at the Office of Woods.
					£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
	PAYMENTS—continued.						
	MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS—continued.						
	Whichwood:						
	Potter's Hill Farm—In hand.		Brought forward - - -		374 5 7	2,066 5 2	
1888:	B. Hobbs, donation in lieu of poor rate for the parish of Whichwood, made 19th December 1887, at 1s. 5d. in the £. on 31st 3s. 4d.			84			
January	F. Minchin, donation in lieu of poor rate for the parish of Asthall, made 10th November 1887, at 1s. 6d. in the £. on 47l.			85			
	W. Macco, donation in lieu of poor rate for the parish of Langley, made 1st December 1887, at 1s. 9d. in the £. on 3l. 13s. 4d. for two cottages and gardens	Letter from Office of Woods, 10 October 1887. File, No. 75.	Treasury Warrant, 4 October 1887.	86			
	W. Graham and Co., for linseed cake			87			
	Payments by A. H. Gregson for labour, &c. in carrying on the farm, as per list			88			
	A. H. Gregson, four weeks' wages from 30th December 1887 to 27th January 1888, at 3l. 3s.			89	100 1 5		For details of the expenditure of the 87l. 9s. 7d. paid to the caretaker, see sub-vouchers with voucher 88.
	Esher Woods:						
	Preparation of Produce for Sale:						
	Pay-list of piece-work from 31st December 1887 to 27th January 1888	Necessary expenditure		80A and 41	7 7 8	541 14 8	
	DEBITS TO MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS:						
	Repayment of Property Tax:						
	Henry Crawley, for Property Tax received from the Board of Inland Revenue in respect of rent remitted for farm on the Whaploode and Moulton Estate			90		45 5 8	

THE MINES ACCOUNT:									
John Clutton, commission at 4 per cent.									
Portland:									
Benjamin White, commission on stone dues, 504 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> , at 4 per cent., on account, to Lady-day 1887									
CASH REMITTED TO THE OFFICE:									
January 4	The Receiver General, per John Clutton								
" 6	Ditto . . . ditto								
" 10	Ditto . . . ditto								
" 12	Ditto . . . ditto								
" 13	Ditto . . . ditto								
" 17	Ditto . . . ditto								
" 19	Ditto . . . ditto								
" 24	Ditto . . . ditto								
" 27	Ditto . . . ditto								
" 31	Ditto . . . ditto								
Treasury Warrant, 29 February 1872.									
90A and 9									
23 8 11									
500 - -									
1,000 - -									
1,000 - -									
4,300 - -									
300 - -									
800 - -									
500 - -									
400 - -									
1,000 - -									
3,000 - -									
12,800 - -									
£. 15,478 14 5									

JOHN CLUTTON.—January 1888.

Dr.

Cr.

Page of Account.	RECEIPTS.	Page of Account.	PAYMENTS.	TOTALS.
	To Balance on the 31st December 1877, brought from last Account -	£. s. d. 297 5 3	By Crown Rents; Debits (Abatements of Rents) -	£. s. d. 350 - -
	To Amount due for Produce, brought from last Account -	56 2 6	By Salaries and Per-centage of Receivers, Stewards of Manors, &c.	570 14 10
	To Imprests -	£. s. d. —	By Incidental Expenses of Receivers, Stewards of Manors, &c.	35 11 5
	To Transfers of Cash from Stewards of Manors -	—	By Surveys, Plans, &c. of Crown Property -	—
	To Crown Rents, &c. -	13,751 6 6	By Repairs, &c. of Crown Estates -	848 17 5
	To Sales of Produce of Crown Estates -	477 6 -	By Allowances to Crown Tenants -	—
	To Miscellaneous Receipts -	1,128 16 6	By Property Tax allowed -	220 14 1
	To Credits to Repairs and Improvements -	19 19 9	By Rates and Taxes on Crown Property, or Donations in lieu thereof.	30 13 3
	To Credits to Rates and Taxes -	1 17 6	By Fixed Charges, Stipends, and Allowances -	9 14 2
			By Donations to Churches, Schools, &c. -	—
			By Miscellaneous Payments -	541 14 8
			By Debits to Miscellaneous Receipts -	46 5 8
			TOTAL PAYMENTS -	2,653 5 6
	TOTAL RECEIPTS -	15,379 6 3	By "The Mines Account" -	23 8 11
	To "The Mines Account" -	81 16 7	By Cash remitted to the Office -	12,800 - -
	To Property and Income Tax, Schedule E.: For deductions from Payments charged in full <i>per contra</i> -	—	By Transfers of Cash to Receivers of Land Revenue -	—
			By Amount due for Produce carried to next Account -	15,476 14 5
			By Balance on the 31st January 1888, carried to next Account -	86 2 6
				251 13 8
		£. 15,814 10 7		£. 15,814 10 7

I hereby certify that the foregoing Account is just and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(signed)

John Clutton.

APPENDIX, No. 14.

PAPER handed in by Mr. George Culley, 5 July 1889.

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES OF THE CROWN.

STATEMENT of GROSS INCOME, GROSS EXPENDITURE, and PAYMENTS into the EXCHEQUER out of the NET INCOME, for each Year from 5th January 1837 to 31st March 1888.

Year ended.	Gross Income.			Gross Expenditure.			Payments into Exchequer out of Net Income.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
5 January 1838	-	-	-	298,248	6	5	147,992	16	4
" 1839	-	-	-	319,627	7	6	150,981	10	-
" 1840	-	-	-	319,865	4	3	183,327	-	6
" 1841	-	-	-	342,080	7	4	176,570	9	3
" 1842	-	-	-	349,401	17	6	198,686	14	-
" 1843	-	-	-	318,960	4	11	188,952	5	6
" 1844	-	-	-	339,643	5	8	165,060	13	11
" 1845	-	-	-	335,624	18	4	171,013	9	8
" 1846	-	-	-	317,268	19	9	175,202	1	3
" 1847	-	-	-	331,682	16	10	194,023	3	-
" 1848	-	-	-	325,002	3	5	244,919	9	6
One Quarter to 31 March 1848	-	-	-	91,959	8	5	54,764	8	11
Year to 31 March 1849	-	-	-	340,275	5	1	207,485	10	8
" 1850	-	-	-	349,097	5	2	192,102	17	11
" 1851	-	-	-	347,356	1	2	179,179	16	8
" 1852	-	-	-	367,489	17	1	150,898	10	2
" 1853	-	-	-	382,396	17	3	101,918	11	6
" 1854	-	-	-	387,417	17	7	131,606	9	8
" 1855	-	-	-	383,756	15	1	122,132	16	3
" 1856	-	-	-	410,329	12	-	132,580	5	3
" 1857	-	-	-	445,688	8	10	169,094	17	2
" 1858	-	-	-	418,199	8	1	145,930	15	-
" 1859	-	-	-	417,868	19	5	132,648	12	-
" 1860	-	-	-	415,358	17	4	117,873	7	5
" 1861	-	-	-	411,444	16	8	123,687	19	7
" 1862	-	-	-	417,440	8	4	134,924	3	6
" 1863	-	-	-	432,449	2	1	125,790	17	1
" 1864	-	-	-	425,766	15	5	123,206	17	2
" 1865	-	-	-	441,620	3	9	122,048	12	6
" 1866	-	-	-	449,677	8	3	116,523	4	1
" 1867	-	-	-	432,456	3	7	97,347	15	9
" 1868	-	-	-	449,252	6	10	95,780	10	9
" 1869	-	-	-	446,173	14	5	88,206	3	10
" 1870	-	-	-	447,723	11	4	87,590	10	6
" 1871	-	-	-	446,151	16	10	80,774	17	10
" 1872	-	-	-	446,800	15	11	86,597	11	6
" 1873	-	-	-	458,903	3	4	80,448	7	1
" 1874	-	-	-	463,241	9	3	78,341	11	7
" 1875	-	-	-	469,090	17	6	76,145	-	6
" 1876	-	-	-	479,674	18	1	75,857	14	8
" 1877	-	-	-	488,294	14	6	83,201	11	4
" 1878	-	-	-	490,819	15	7	87,088	17	9
" 1879	-	-	-	489,448	11	9	88,400	11	10
" 1880	-	-	-	470,216	13	11	83,467	9	5
" 1881	-	-	-	463,437	14	7	91,185	9	-
" 1882	-	-	-	473,001	-	6	97,228	5	2
" 1883	-	-	-	491,101	14	7	97,354	16	11
" 1884	-	-	-	498,252	14	6	113,784	8	4
" 1885	-	-	-	483,305	19	1	99,734	19	-
" 1886	-	-	-	477,820	-	5	103,384	17	4
" 1887	-	-	-	472,450	6	11	97,123	16	3
" 1888	-	-	-	507,427	17	5	94,739	5	-
TOTAL	-	-	£.	21,278,044	19	9	6,564,912	16	9
Year ended 31 March 1889	-	-	-	506,828	-	6	91,776	15	-
TOTAL	-	-	£.	21,784,873	-	3	6,656,689	11	9

* In consequence of the legislative appropriation of the land revenue there were no payments into the Exchequer until the year 1838. On the 13th of July 1837 the last of the incumbrances raised upon the security of the land revenue, under the provisions of the Regent-street and Charing-cross, &c. Improvement Acts, was discharged, and from that date the Net Income has been paid to the Consolidated Fund.

Note.—Until the year 1852 the accounts included the Royal Parks and Gardens and the Office Establishment now provided for by Vote of Parliament.

APPENDIX, No. 15.

PAPER handed in by Mr. F. Hellard, 5 July 1889.

RETURN of all Correspondence between the Commissioners of Woods and the Treasury in reference to the Crown Receivers keeping separate Banking Accounts for Crown Moneys received by them.

THE correspondence commenced by a reference, on the 19th March 1885, from the Treasury to the Commissioners of Woods, for observations on the following letter received from the Comptroller and Auditor General :—

Sir,

Exchequer and Audit Department, Somerset House,
London, W.C., 17 March 1885.

I AM directed by the Comptroller and Auditor General to transmit to you herewith the copy of a query which he had caused to be addressed to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods, together with the reply which has been received thereto.

It will be seen from this reply that Mr. Clutton, one of the Receivers of the Land Revenue of the Crown, who is also a member of a private firm (Messrs. Clutton), declines to produce his bank pass-book, on the ground that he has never kept a separate banking account as Receiver of Land Revenues.

I have to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform the Comptroller and Auditor General whether this practice of including public moneys in a private banking account meets with their Lordships' approval

Sir R. R. W. Lingen, K.C.B.

I have, &c.
(signed) H. Treherne.

The following is a copy of the query and of the reply above referred to :—

Description of Account or Voucher.	OBSERVATIONS.	Number of Query.	Answer or Explanation of the Accountant.
Mr. Clutton's sub-accounts	It is requested that Mr. Clutton's pass-book, relative to his transactions as Receiver of Crown Rents from 1st April 1883 to 31st October 1884, may be transmitted for inspection. It will be returned as quickly as possible.	23	A copy of this query was referred to Mr. Clutton, and subjoined is a copy of his reply :— My banking account as Receiver is kept with the banking account of my firm (Messrs. Clutton). I have not, and never have had, any separate account, and I cannot, therefore, produce a pass-book as requested. (signed) John Clutton. 5 March 1885.

Receivers.—File 13.

My Lords,

Office of Woods, &c., 4 June 1885.

UPON the 21st March last your Lordships referred to us a letter from the Department of the Auditor and Comptroller General respecting the circumstance that the moneys collected by Mr. Clutton, the Receiver of Land Revenue, are paid by him to a private banking account in the name of the firm of which he is a member.

We have caused to be prepared a statement respecting the public moneys that are received and accounted for by officers of this Department, and of Windsor Great Park, and also respecting the banking accounts to which such moneys are paid, and we transmit the statement herewith for any instructions which your Lordships may think it right to issue thereon.

The letter that was referred to us is returned herewith.

The Right Honourable
The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury,
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) George Clulley.
Nigel Kingscott.

STATEMENT showing the Names of the Officers of the Department of Woods, &c., and of Windsor Great Park, who receive and account for Public Moneys, with Particulars of the Amounts received, and of the Banking Accounts to which they are paid.

Name and Title of Officer.		Gross Amount Collected in 1883-84.	Nature of Security given.			Observations and Particulars as to Banking Accounts, &c.
Name.	Title.		Bond.		Investment of Stock.	
			Amount.	Persons Bound.		
		£.	£.		£.	
W. C. Higgins -	Receiver General	550,627 (This includes the sum of 207,721 l. mentioned below.)	12,500	Himself for 5,000 l.; three sureties for 2,500 l. each.	—	Nearly the whole of the amount collected by the Receiver General is paid by him to the Account of the Commissioners of Woods at the Bank of England through the clerks of the Bank, who call at this office. The residue is transferred at the Bank to the Account of the Commissioners of Woods, &c. from other public accounts. Nearly the whole of the amount collected is paid to the bank clerks or is transferred as mentioned above; but when the daily receipt is trifling in amount the Receiver, in order to avoid a multiplicity of entries in the office books of remittances from him of small amount, pays the money so received into an account in his name at Messrs. Drummond's, which includes some private transactions. Messrs. Drummond transfer to the same account some rents, which they pay on behalf of their customers. The total sum paid or transferred to that account in 1883-84 amounted to 2,372 l. The greater part (1,304 l.) of that amount was transferred as mentioned above. The residue was paid into the account by the Receiver.
	Receiver of Crown rents for the county of Middlesex, &c.	207,721				
Gorst, T. W. -	Solicitor to the Office of Woods, &c.	—	—	—	—	No moneys are received by Mr. Gorst except imposts on account of legal disbursements. The amount imposted to him in 1883-84 was 1,675 l. A separate account is kept in Mr. Gorst's name.
Fagg, T. -	Office Keeper -	—	—	—	—	No moneys are received by Mr. Fagg except imposts on account of office expenses. The amount imposted to him in 1883-84 was 175 l. He does not keep a banking account.
Gore, S. W. -	Receiver for the Northern District, and Steward of various Manors.	43,759	8,000	Himself for 4,000 l. and two sureties, jointly and severally, for 4,000 l.	—	A separate account is not kept. Mr. Gore's transactions as Crown Receiver are included in an account in the name of the firm (Smith & Gore) of which he is a member, together with the transactions in connection with some private agencies.
Clutton, J. -	Receiver for the Midland and Southern Counties, and Steward of various Manors.	123,072	12,000	Himself for 6,000 l. and two sureties, jointly and severally, for 6,000 l.	—	These moneys are paid to an account kept in the name of the firm of which Mr. Clutton is a member. In addition to the sum collected by Mr. Clutton, as stated in the third column, an impost of 3,000 l. was made to him in 1883-84.
Wilkin, William	Crown Receiver for Wales, and of Fee Farm Rents, England.	13,453	2,000	Himself - - -	2,200 Reduced 3 per Cent. Annuities.	A separate account is kept in Mr. Wilkin's name.
Keir, James -	Crown Receiver at Edinburgh.	24,427	3,000	Himself for 2,000 l.; two sureties, jointly and severally, for 1,000 l.	—	Money collected by the Receiver is paid into the Royal Bank of Scotland to the Account of the Commissioners of Woods. Payments are made as soon as the amount is large enough, and, until a sufficient sum is received, the money is kept in the Receiver's office.
Napier, A. J. -	Heritable Chamberlain of Lordship of Dunbar.	607	1,000	Himself and one surety, jointly and severally.	—	These Receivers pay money into the Royal Bank of Scotland, to the Account of the Commissioners of Woods, as soon as they have a sufficient sum in hand. The system in Scotland is, therefore, direct payments of receipts into an official bank account kept in the name of the Commissioners of Woods.
D'Eresby, Lady Willoughby.	Heritable Chamberlain of Strathern.	116	600	Herself and one surety, jointly and severally.	—	
Barnett, James -	Chamberlain for Orkney.	748	400	Himself and two sureties, jointly and severally.	—	

STATEMENT showing the Names of the Officers of the Department of Woods, &c.—*continued.*

Name and Title of Officer.		Gross Amount Collected in 1883-84.	Nature of Security given.			Observations and Particulars as to Banking Accounts, &c.
Name.	Title.		Bond.		Investment of Stock.	
			Amount.	Persons Bound.		
Gauvain, J. A. -	Receiver for the Isle of Alderney.	£. 380	£. 500	Himself and two sureties, jointly and severally.	£. —	There is no bank in Alderney, and Mr. Gauvain keeps no banking account for Crown moneys, but he generally remits so soon as he has a balance of 50 l. or 60 l.
Micks, R. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Belfast.	722	700	Himself - -	200 New 3 per Cent. Annuities.	
Taylor, J. H. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Coleraine.	387	900	Himself for 700 l. and Guarantee Association for 200 l.	—	
Barnes, J. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Cork.	2,088	700	Himself and two sureties, jointly and severally.	—	
Hickey, W. R. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Dublin.	432	700	- ditto - -	—	
Chard, W. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Dundalk.	7,429	700	Himself and Guarantee Association.	—	
Farrington, T. E.	Collector of Inland Revenue at Galway.	5,693	700	Himself and two sureties, jointly and severally.	—	
M'Carthy, R. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Kilkenny.	4,231	700	- ditto - -	—	
Bright, J. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Limerick.	3,913	700	- ditto - -	—	
Hornibal, W. H.	Collector of Inland Revenue at Londonderry.	888	900	Himself for 700 l. and Guarantee Association for 200 l.	—	
Burch, R. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Sligo.	4,463	700	Himself and Guarantee Association.	—	The collectors pay money into an account which includes all their official transactions for the Inland Revenue as well as for this Department. The portion belonging to this Department is drawn by cheque, and paid into the Bank of Ireland to an Account of the Commissioners of Woods, as often as the amount makes it worth while. The collectors do not pay public money into a private account, and there is nothing in their reports to suggest that they pay private money into the official account.
Breenahan, W. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Waterford.	5,289	700	Himself and two sureties, jointly and severally.	—	
Simmons, J. -	Collector of Inland Revenue at Wexford.	3,747	700	- ditto - -	—	
Campbell, Sir J.	Deputy Surveyor of Dean Forest and Highmeadow Woods.	9,636	4,000	Himself for 2,000 l.; two sureties for 1,000 l. each.	—	
Francis, G. E. -	Crown Receiver of Rents and Royalties for Dean Forest, Highmeadow Woods, Manors of Staunton, English Bicknor, Newland, and St. Briavels.	15,417	3,000	Himself for 1,000 l.; two sureties for 1,000 l. each.	—	
Lascelles, the Honourable Gerald W.	Deputy Surveyor of New Forest, Alice Holt, Wolmer, Parkhurst, and Bere Woods.	18,424	4,000	Himself for 2,000 l.; two sureties, jointly and severally, for 2,000 l.	—	
Campbell, Captain W.	Deputy Ranger of Windsor Great Park.	936	—	—	—	
Simmonds, F. -	Deputy Surveyor of Windsor Parks and Woods.	3,857	1,500	Himself and two sureties, jointly and severally.	—	
Atkins, F. M. -	Collector of Regent's Quadrant Painting Rates.	373	100	Himself and Guarantee Association, jointly and severally.	—	
						A separate account is kept in Mr. Lascelles' name.
						In addition to the sum stated in the third column as collected, sums amounting to 4,479 l. were, in 1883-84, impressed to Colonel Liddell (the late Deputy Ranger) and Captain Campbell. A separate account is kept in Captain Campbell's name.
						In addition to the sum stated in the third column as collected, sums amounting to 17,545 l. were impressed, in 1883-84, to Mr. Simmonds. A separate account is kept in the name of the Commissioners of Woods.
						The rates are, when received, paid to the Receiver General of Land Revenue.

Gentlemen,
 WITH reference to your Report of the 4th June last and its enclosure, showing the manner in which the different Receivers and other officers of your Department deal with the public moneys collected by them, the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury desire me to say that the only cases in which an amended arrangement seems to be required are those of Mr. J. Clutton, Receiver for the Midland and Southern Counties, and Steward of various Manors, and Mr. S. W. Gore, Receiver for the Northern District, and Steward of various Manors.
 My Lords request that both of these gentlemen may be invited to open a separate banking account for the public moneys received by them, for which a separate pass-book will be kept, which can be furnished to the Comptroller and Auditor General or to yourselves for inspection whenever required.

I am, &c.
 (signed) *Frank Mowatt.*

The Commissioners of Woods.

Receivers.—File 14.

My Lords,
 Office of Woods, &c., 26 March 1886.
 WITH reference to Mr. Mowatt's letter of the 9th December last, we beg to inform your Lordships that we have arranged with Mr. John Clutton and Mr. Spencer William Gore to open separate banking accounts in respect of moneys received by them respectively on behalf of the Land Revenues of the Crown.

Mr. Clutton's account will be opened with Messrs. Martin, 68, Lombard-street, in his own name, thus, "John Clutton, Crown Account."

Mr. Gore's account will be opened at the London and Westminster Bank (St. James'-square Branch), in his own name, as "Receiver of Crown Rents in the Northern Districts of England."

Both accounts will be opened on the 1st April next.

We have to add that a copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

We have, &c.
 (signed) *George Culley.*
Nigel Kingscote.

The Right Honourable
 The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury,
 &c. &c. &c.

Gentlemen,
 Treasury Chambers, 5 April 1886.
 I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acknowledge the receipt of your Report of the 26th ultimo, stating that arrangements have been made with Mr. John Clutton and Mr. Spencer William Gore to open separate banking accounts in respect of moneys received by them respectively on behalf of the Land Revenues of the Crown, and I am to express their Lordships' satisfaction therewith.

I am, &c.
 (signed) *R. E. Welby.*

The Commissioners of Woods.

APPENDIX, No. 16.

PAPER handed in by Mr. George Culley, 5 July 1869.

NEW FOREST.

RETURN showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888.

Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per-centage of Expenditure to Receipts.	Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per-centage of Expenditure to Receipts.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1850	9,556 17 1	11,968 11 7	2,411 14 6	126.2	1871	12,898 11 3	12,088 14 -	809 17 3	93.7
1851	13,521 9 10	10,370 - 1	3,151 9 9	76.7	1872	12,540 15 10	10,048 2 1	2,492 13 9	80.1
1852	23,590 3 8	14,611 1 4	9,979 2 4	61.5	1873	10,947 16 10	8,772 2 8	2,175 14 2	80.1
1853	23,047 12 10	16,539 4 11	11,408 7 11	59.2	1874	9,757 3 -	8,153 15 3	1,604 7 9	83.7
1854	18,276 17 3	12,872 13 4	5,404 3 11	70.4	1875	11,235 17 6	8,264 11 10	2,971 6 8	73.6
1855	18,876 5 11	15,697 6 6	3,177 19 5	84.0	1876	10,242 7 2	8,422 7 8	1,819 19 9	82.2
1856	33,375 6 8	15,129 6 3	18,246 18 5	45.3	1877	10,343 8 2	8,996 7 10	1,347 - 4	87.0
1857	19,821 1 8	12,542 14 2	7,278 7 6	63.8	1878	12,070 4 1	9,948 8 6	2,122 - 7	83.4
1858	14,515 11 8	13,637 15 7	877 16 1	94.0	1879	9,109 17 8	8,836 - 3	273 17 5	97.6
1859	15,588 10 10	12,545 9 7	3,043 7 3	86.9	1880	10,467 12 9	7,835 17 10	2,632 14 11	74.8
1860	23,125 6 6	14,567 14 7	8,557 11 11	63.0	1881	10,926 16 4	12,063 18 6	1,137 2 2	110.6
1861	17,044 8 8	13,981 14 -	3,063 14 3	82.0	1882	12,431 16 3	10,689 9 -	1,742 7 3	85.9
1862	22,304 5 -	14,564 16 11	7,739 8 1	66.8	1883	11,843 13 2	10,651 5 2	1,192 8 -	90.8
1863	19,403 6 2	13,982 1 3	5,421 4 11	72.0	1884	13,876 16 9	11,385 6 8	2,491 10 1	82.0
1864	16,251 12 4	11,830 1 5	4,421 10 11	69.7	1885	12,445 1 9	11,401 10 11	1,044 10 10	91.6
1865	16,635 18 4	11,105 5 6	5,530 12 10	66.8	1886	10,085 1 5	11,073 10 8	1,088 9 -	110.4
1866	13,957 - -	10,456 19 4	4,500 - 8	88.5	1887	8,517 18 2	8,981 1 2	464 3 -	105.6
1867	15,399 10 8	11,835 2 7	3,564 7 8	76.9	1888	11,008 8 3	9,270 11 6	1,738 16 9	84.3
1868	17,546 6 7	13,245 8 7	4,300 18 -	75.7					
1869	15,622 9 4	13,776 15 11	1,845 13 5	88.2					
1870	12,112 1 4	12,262 8 10	150 7 6	102.2					
					TOTALS - - £.	588,883 13 11	454,965 10 1	133,918 3 10	77.7

NEW PARK FARM.

Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per-centage of Expenditure to Receipts.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1850	894 4 4	665 14 11	228 9 5	74.5
1851	902 11 9	483 5 10	419 5 11	53.5
1852	1,213 3 7	1,023 13 9	189 9 10	84.4
1853	2,177 6 6	614 8 9	1,562 17 9	28.2
1854	1,469 10 4	690 12 6	778 17 10	47.0
TOTALS - - - £.	6,656 16 6	3,477 15 9	3,179 - 9	52.2

N.B.—New Park Farm was let upon lease in 1854, and all subsequent receipts or expenditure were included under the New Forest Account.

DEAN FOREST.

RETURN showing the Receipts (including Mines) and Expenditure, together with the Surplus Revenue, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888.

Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Per-centage of Expenditure to Receipts.	Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Per-centage of Expenditure to Receipts.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1850	13,070 5 -	9,863 8 6	3,215 16 6	75.4	1871	29,836 19 7	9,508 7 3	20,328 12 4	31.9
1851	12,820 19 7	8,872 - 6	3,948 19 1	69.2	1872	28,745 15 5	8,776 8 2	19,969 12 3	30.5
1852	19,799 6 1	10,119 16 11	9,679 9 2	51.1	1873	28,729 5 7	8,211 8 1	20,518 17 6	28.6
1853	22,269 12 8	13,218 3 1	19,051 9 7	41.0	1874	26,372 12 10	9,970 4 1	16,402 8 9	37.8
1854	18,470 18 4	12,829 18 8	5,640 19 8	69.5	1875	23,884 14 3	7,902 11 -	15,982 3 3	33.1
1855	19,409 16 5	12,164 10 11	7,245 5 6	62.7	1876	26,064 19 2	8,206 8 4	17,858 10 10	31.5
1856	31,687 14 2	12,729 - 2	21,958 14 -	36.7	1877	26,603 13 11	8,408 4 6	18,195 9 5	31.6
1857	28,385 13 10	12,976 9 9	15,409 4 1	45.7	1878	21,212 18 5	8,946 17 7	12,266 - 10	42.2
1858	32,993 6 11	15,964 8 10	17,024 18 1	48.4	1879	21,954 1 4	7,418 17 11	14,535 10 6	33.8
1859	18,049 17 6	13,116 16 5	4,933 1 1	72.7	1880	21,702 4 2	7,004 7 9	14,697 16 5	32.2
1860	23,645 12 2	11,296 16 7	12,358 15 7	47.7	1881	21,954 1 4	7,418 17 11	14,535 10 6	33.8
1861	21,312 4 7	12,629 16 6	8,682 8 1	59.8	1882	22,137 13 -	7,627 19 10	14,509 13 7	34.5
1862	16,611 19 7	11,875 2 2	4,736 17 5	71.5	1883	19,878 18 10	7,824 10 10	12,054 8 0	39.4
1863	22,349 11 9	12,805 4 4	9,544 7 5	57.3	1884	20,730 2 3	10,558 14 3	10,171 8 0	51.0
1864	17,798 16 10	10,553 16 -	7,245 - 10	59.2	1885	22,437 11 6	8,970 13 10	13,467 17 8	40.0
1865	22,247 15 11	7,914 4 2	14,333 11 9	35.6	1886	22,735 3 1	10,809 2 9	12,126 - 4	47.5
1866	22,131 16 9	9,027 18 8	13,103 18 1	40.8	1887	21,553 3 4	8,294 14 4	12,658 9 -	41.3
1867	24,167 8 10	8,161 15 11	16,006 12 11	33.8	1888	20,759 17 7	7,094 18 1	13,665 19 6	34.2
1868	27,314 8 -	8,587 16 3	18,726 6 9	31.4					
1869	25,184 - 2	8,797 11 9	16,386 8 5	35.0					
1870	28,025 1 9	10,305 4 4	17,719 17 5	36.8					
					TOTALS - - £.	900,305 7 4	387,833 4 4	512,472 3 -	43.0

DEAN FOREST.

RETURN showing the Receipts (excluding Mines) and Expenditure, together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888.

Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.	Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1850	8,716 6 9	9,243 10 6	527 12 9	106.0	1871	12,703 1 -	6,988 5 1	5,714 15 11	55.0
1851	8,011 15 -	7,961 14 7	50 - 5	99.3	1872	7,407 19 2	6,220 18 10	1,187 - 4	84.0
1852	13,196 16 9	8,821 4 2	4,375 12 7	66.8	1873	9,006 15 2	5,718 8 2	3,288 7 -	63.5
1853	26,669 16 8	11,817 13 10	14,852 1 5	44.3	1874	7,999 17 9	7,104 7 3	895 10 6	88.8
1854	13,985 13 2	11,634 1 6	2,351 11 8	83.2	1875	9,365 1 2	5,270 2 -	4,095 19 2	56.3
1855	13,803 9 4	11,186 9 9	2,616 19 7	81.0	1876	12,607 10 4	5,839 - 7	6,768 9 9	46.3
1856	24,156 17 1	11,456 12 1	12,700 5 -	47.4	1877	12,580 1 4	6,138 2 10	6,441 18 6	48.9
1857	21,752 17 3	11,352 15 5	10,400 1 10	52.2	1878	8,314 15 5	6,720 - -	1,594 15 5	76.2
1858	26,915 8 4	14,385 4 4	12,630 4 -	53.1	1879	7,555 - 11	5,341 1 10	2,214 18 1	70.8
1859	11,940 16 3	11,353 11 4	586 11 11	95.0	1880	7,313 13 4	4,596 12 3	2,717 1 1	62.9
1860	14,928 13 9	9,305 9 6	5,723 4 3	61.7	1881	8,227 8 6	4,897 15 7	3,330 12 11	59.5
1861	11,285 10 8	10,939 13 6	345 17 2	98.3	1882	7,984 5 9	5,058 1 7	2,926 4 2	63.4
1862	9,419 1 7	9,543 13 -	124 11 5	104.5	1883	6,467 6 4	5,362 1 6	1,105 4 10	83.0
1863	12,295 10 9	9,931 19 11	2,363 10 10	80.8	1884	8,043 13 6	7,992 7 8	51 5 10	99.3
1864	6,878 14 7	8,069 1 10	1,190 7 3	117.3	1885	7,677 7 7	6,503 17 6	1,173 10 1	84.7
1865	7,418 8 6	5,944 4 2	1,474 4 4	80.1	1886	7,372 15 2	8,325 3 5	952 8 3	112.9
1866	8,103 2 9	6,065 5 8	2,037 17 1	74.8	1887	7,060 - -	6,661 10 10	398 9 2	94.4
1867	8,506 7 8	5,806 10 6	2,698 17 2	68.3	1888	6,200 2 2	4,902 19 9	1,297 2 5	79.1
1868	11,037 13 5	6,234 10 4	4,743 3 1	57.0					
1869	8,709 9 7	6,403 18 -	2,305 11 7	73.5					
1870	10,838 15 4	7,878 4 7	2,960 10 9	72.7					
					TOTALS - - £.	432,913 18 4	305,138 14 2	127,775 4 2	70.5

HIGHMEADOW WOODS.

RETURN showing the Receipts (including Mines) and Expenditure, together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888.

Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.	Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1850	2,815 15 9	1,885 13 8	930 2 1	67.0	1871	5,974 15 2	1,379 12 8	4,595 2 7	21.4
1851	3,536 6 2	2,129 10 8	1,406 15 6	60.3	1872	3,348 17 10	1,591 16 8	1,757 1 7	47.5
1852	4,868 11 7	2,269 10 7	2,599 1 -	55.0	1873	6,473 10 9	1,474 13 10	4,998 16 11	22.8
1853	3,520 19 3	1,976 - 8	1,544 18 7	56.1	1874	7,729 - 11	1,905 16 9	5,823 5 2	24.7
1854	1,464 1 4	1,656 13 8	222 12 1	115.2	1875	5,962 11 10	1,769 - 11	4,193 10 11	29.6
1855	2,506 5 -	2,268 8 7	238 1 5	90.4	1876	5,174 7 5	1,700 7 11	3,473 19 6	32.9
1856	2,555 9 11	2,594 7 1	38 17 3	101.6	1877	6,849 1 1	1,835 12 1	5,013 9 -	31.3
1857	2,797 12 10	2,050 18 5	746 14 5	73.6	1878	4,451 16 5	1,939 - 5	2,512 16 -	43.6
1858	10,074 16 7	4,249 12 6	5,825 4 1	42.2	1879	2,768 16 9	1,743 10 11	1,025 5 10	63.0
1859	8,800 5 9	3,684 6 3	5,116 15 6	54.2	1880	3,449 6 4	1,965 7 11	1,483 18 5	57.0
1860	3,578 8 6	2,498 8 4	1,080 - 2	69.5	1881	4,652 18 -	1,866 8 3	2,786 10 9	40.0
1861	3,449 9 4	2,266 12 3	1,183 17 1	66.8	1882	4,791 18 -	1,889 4 6	2,902 13 6	39.5
1862	2,742 - 10	2,432 8 11	309 11 11	86.7	1883	4,447 8 8	1,769 4 11	2,678 3 9	40.2
1863	9,102 9 6	2,745 - 7	6,357 8 11	30.2	1884	4,342 1 11	1,965 7 3	2,376 14 8	46.7
1864	2,380 5 1	2,276 8 4	103 16 9	95.6	1885	2,267 1 1	1,668 8 3	599 4 10	73.6
1865	5,301 2 9	1,722 17 2	3,578 5 7	32.5	1886	2,571 19 9	1,991 5 1	580 14 8	77.4
1866	2,446 18 8	2,015 8 2	431 10 6	82.3	1887	3,070 18 6	1,559 1 -	1,511 17 8	51.7
1867	2,297 18 8	1,976 8 6	421 10 2	85.4	1888	3,739 16 8	1,633 18 3	2,106 3 -	43.7
1868	1,400 18 5	1,700 2 11	299 4 6	121.3					
1869	3,335 15 10	1,962 5 1	1,373 10 9	58.8					
1870	5,301 18 3	1,827 19 6	3,473 13 9	35.1					
					TOTALS - - £.	161,642 19 5	79,151 17 9	82,491 1 8	49.0

ALICE HOLT FOREST.

RETURN showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888.

Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.	Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1850	3,509 16 5	1,816 5 7	1,693 10 10	51.7	1871	2,043 17 -	931 3 2	1,112 13 10	45.5
1851	2,236 10 10	1,637 6 3	699 4 7	69.7	1872	1,450 1 7	1,572 15 8	122 14 1	108.5
1852	4,570 4 2	2,427 6 5	2,143 17 9	53.1	1873	1,867 19 5	792 14 3	1,075 5 2	42.5
1853	1,280 17 1	1,289 18 8	9 1 7	100.7	1874	1,644 19 3	757 15 10	887 3 5	46.0
1854	2,339 11 11	1,948 - 4	391 11 7	82.2	1875	1,627 17 3	706 3 10	921 13 5	43.4
1855	1,552 1 5	1,533 14 1	15 7 4	99.0	1876	1,091 2 11	495 10 2	596 12 8	45.5
1856	1,341 - 11	1,229 18 4	111 2 1	91.7	1877	1,727 5 1	632 16 9	1,094 8 4	36.7
1857	1,262 - 5	1,277 16 7	15 15 8	101.3	1878	954 13 11	732 15 8	221 18 3	76.8
1858	1,065 3 1	1,310 14 6	245 11 5	124.8	1879	1,161 8 -	392 2 10	769 5 2	33.8
1859	991 8 5	1,306 12 1	315 3 8	131.9	1880	1,114 2 7	414 9 -	699 13 7	37.2
1860	1,496 8 11	1,146 3 -	350 5 11	76.6	1881	1,493 1 1	1,111 1 4	381 19 9	74.4
1861	645 - 11	813 13 9	168 12 10	126.2	1882	1,190 6 9	1,007 15 -	182 11 9	84.7
1862	808 1 4	1,009 9 1	201 7 9	124.9	1883	1,266 13 7	873 18 -	393 15 7	68.3
1863	662 19 11	895 12 9	232 13 10	135.1	1884	1,695 13 3	1,011 12 7	684 - 8	59.6
1864	1,376 14 11	731 15 2	644 19 9	53.2	1885	1,468 12 3	836 17 4	631 14 11	56.9
1865	1,640 17 9	641 13 6	999 4 3	39.1	1886	1,545 12 11	764 13 4	780 19 7	49.5
1866	1,822 8 10	927 17 -	894 11 10	50.9	1887	950 10 6	801 13 -	148 17 6	84.3
1867	3,061 18 10	1,108 18 4	1,958 - 6	36.0	1888	1,347 17 10	736 9 1	611 8 9	54.6
1868	4,246 3 10	1,660 5 8	2,585 18 2	36.7					
1869	3,754 5 9	2,290 15 9	1,463 10 -	61.0					
1870	1,368 19 6	801 15 -	567 4 6	58.7					
					TOTALS - - £.	66,642 10 4	42,180 19 9	24,461 10 7	63.3

WOOLMER ESTATE.

RETURN showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888.

Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.	Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1850	845 8 11	728 10 6	116 18 5	86.2	1871	936 11 3	106 5 2	770 6 1	177
1851	911 - -	794 3 10	116 16 2	79.5	1872	896 3 6	131 13 11	764 9 7	147
1852	1,043 14 8	537 4 4	506 10 4	51.4	1873	678 - -	76 - -	600 - -	111
1853	1,068 - -	538 19 6	519 1 1	50.9	1874	946 9 4	130 7 -	816 2 4	127
1854	739 9 6	601 19 4	137 10 2	81.5	1875	1,442 3 2	100 16 6	1,341 7 8	70
1855	836 11 5	722 17 5	113 14 -	87.4	1876	1,189 4 4	61 19 9	1,127 4 7	62
1856	673 7 9	517 1 5	156 6 4	90.2	1877	1,099 5 4	101 19 1	997 6 3	92
1857	1,134 19 9	537 15 -	597 4 9	47.4	1878	927 18 -	74 19 3	852 18 9	81
1858	579 11 4	453 8 1	126 3 3	78.1	1879	779 11 3	83 1 4	696 9 11	104
1859	625 9 1	468 5 1	157 4 -	74.9	1880	709 14 -	88 6 4	621 7 8	119
1860	1,290 10 5	308 - -	982 10 3	23.9	1881	776 5 9	152 5 9	624 - -	197
1861	1,242 11 1	278 1 7	964 9 6	22.4	1882	3,354 19 8	179 7 9	3,175 11 11	5.2
1862	1,364 3 10	412 18 6	951 5 4	30.3	1883	907 6 3	225 4 -	682 2 2	24.8
1863	1,293 2 6	276 10 2	1,016 12 4	21.4	1884	1,141 5 2	155 17 4	985 7 10	13.7
1864	1,093 12 11	128 6 9	965 6 2	11.7	1885	1,031 12 6	168 1 -	863 11 6	15.2
1865	1,114 4 7	173 4 6	941 - -	15.5	1886	772 11 3	127 15 8	644 15 11	16.4
1866	3,461 - -	175 6 6	3,285 14 3	5.0	1887	738 2 -	120 12 6	617 9 7	16.4
1867	690 13 2	78 7 8	611 15 6	11.4	1888	854 19 7	164 4 6	690 15 1	19.2
1868	744 14 1	97 19 1	646 15 -	13.2					
1869	891 10 6	152 10 11	738 19 7	17.2					
1870	791 4 5	125 15 3	665 9 2	15.9					
TOTALS - - £.						41,544 3 5	10,333 10 10	31,210 12 7	24.9

BEREWOODS.

RETURN showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888.

Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.	Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1850	1,657 12 9	1,191 11 1	466 1 8	71.9	1871	1,936 14 11	738 14 2	1,188 - -	38.3
1851	2,023 17 7	1,342 18 6	680 19 1	66.4	1872	1,651 13 1	676 14 -	974 19 1	41.0
1852	2,007 16 5	1,324 8 2	683 8 3	65.9	1873	2,086 5 5	776 3 5	1,290 2 -	37.6
1853	1,681 9 3	1,071 13 5	509 15 10	67.8	1874	1,908 8 2	768 8 1	1,139 - -	40.3
1854	1,733 7 1	1,030 5 3	713 1 10	58.9	1875	1,778 4 7	686 8 1	1,091 16 6	38.6
1855	2,345 5 2	1,368 16 5	976 8 9	58.6	1876	1,750 1 9	715 18 9	1,034 3 -	40.9
1856	2,195 16 11	1,322 4 7	873 12 4	55.6	1877	1,746 18 8	743 4 11	1,003 13 9	42.5
1857	2,439 19 4	933 9 7	1,506 9 9	38.2	1878	1,634 2 4	608 16 9	1,025 6 7	37.2
1858	2,242 8 5	899 11 8	1,342 16 9	40.1	1879	1,398 14 7	566 10 -	832 4 7	40.5
1859	2,976 13 6	1,362 13 9	1,613 19 9	45.8	1880	1,178 11 4	848 3 4	330 8 -	48.2
1860	3,016 17 3	1,061 18 6	1,954 18 9	35.2	1881	1,142 16 9	840 6 7	302 10 2	73.5
1861	2,755 12 -	879 5 10	1,876 6 2	31.9	1882	1,255 11 -	907 4 6	348 6 6	64.3
1862	2,042 16 11	878 14 10	1,164 1 1	43.0	1883	1,398 14 10	1,247 10 -	151 4 10	104.7
1863	2,484 5 7	884 8 -	1,599 17 7	35.6	1884	1,659 19 3	856 16 9	793 2 6	54.9
1864	1,513 4 2	657 12 9	855 11 5	43.5	1885	1,315 7 5	922 4 2	393 3 3	70.1
1865	1,863 9 1	619 9 11	963 19 2	39.1	1886	1,441 17 8	875 7 6	566 10 2	60.7
1866	1,710 11 1	649 1 3	1,061 9 10	37.9	1887	1,120 16 3	828 5 -	292 11 3	73.9
1867	2,174 4 7	784 10 11	1,389 13 8	36.1	1888	1,270 6 11	724 14 2	546 12 9	57.9
1868	1,961 11 -	897 4 6	1,064 6 6	45.3					
1869	1,986 12 -	739 13 6	1,196 18 6	38.2					
1870	1,542 2 4	896 10 10	715 11 6	58.6					
TOTALS - - £.						71,305 16 4	34,561 12 5	36,704 3 11	48.4

PARKHURST WOODS.

RETURN showing the Receipts and Expenditure (including Mines), together with the Surplus or Deficiency, in each Year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888.

Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.	Year ended 31st March	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficiency.	Per- centage of Expendi- ture to Receipts.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1850	928 9 3	883 17 4	45 11 11	90.0	1871	432 3 11	319 10 7	112 13 4	73.6
1851	894 15 7	916 11 2	27 15 7	102.4	1872	655 7 -	297 3 1	358 4 11	45.3
1852	890 19 10	859 10 1	31 9 9	96.5	1873	304 3 9	247 1 4	57 2 5	81.0
1853	594 15 7	642 3 -	47 7 5	108.8	1874	537 9 6	313 15 8	223 10 10	58.4
1854	778 11 6	712 - -	66 10 10	91.5	1875	485 13 11	296 6 10	189 7 1	61.0
1855	1,067 13 4	1,061 4 8	6 8 8	99.4	1876	513 14 3	390 14 10	123 3 5	59.0
1856	1,119 17 -	943 8 1	176 11 11	84.3	1877	444 16 3	273 2 8	171 12 7	61.5
1857	1,374 15 6	945 11 10	429 3 6	74.2	1878	465 11 1	353 5 4	112 5 9	75.9
1858	1,491 3 10	836 11 5	654 12 5	55.0	1879	467 5 1	398 2 4	67 3 3	77.7
1859	701 8 10	887 13 4	186 4 6	126.4	1880	490 2 9	318 11 8	171 11 1	64.3
1860	619 12 9	843 18 10	224 6 1	102.9	1881	373 14 7	491 19 3	118 4 8	131.6
1861	444 7 6	603 9 11	159 2 5	135.2	1882	707 9 1	523 3 7	184 6 6	74.0
1862	424 10 10	890 17 -	466 6 2	139.2	1883	668 18 5	523 4 6	145 13 11	79.6
1863	305 5 3	600 5 7	295 - -	163.9	1884	780 6 -	567 14 8	212 11 4	72.7
1864	454 9 3	361 7 10	92 1 5	83.9	1885	625 2 7	667 18 5	67 4 2	8.6
1865	369 - -	331 - -	38 - -	89.7	1886	434 3 5	631 - -	66 16 8	14.6
1866	396 1 7	292 19 1	103 12 6	98.6	1887	611 12 9	398 10 9	212 2 1	64.0
1867	311 4 5	292 16 1	18 8 4	93.9	1888	618 19 -	486 2 3	132 16 9	78.6
1868	362 14 4	336 4 5	26 9 11	92.8					
1869	424 16 8	330 12 4	94 4 4	77.8					
1870	386 14 8	288 11 3	98 3 5	74.6					
TOTALS - - £.						23,961 12 2	20,578 19 -	3,402 14 2	88.6

APPENDIX, No. 17.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Cates*, 9 July 1889.

STATEMENT of Mr. *Cates*' FEES in connection with the CROWN PROPERTY under the charge of Colonel Sir *Nigel Kingscote*, K.C.B., for each of the 18 Years ended 31st March 1888, and showing the Total Charge upon the LAND REVENUES in respect of those FEES for each Year.

Year to 31 March	Charges for which Bills sent in to Office of Woods.			Charges (Income) recovered by Office of Woods from third parties.	Net Charge on Land Revenues.	Charges received by Mr. <i>Cates</i> , from third parties, in accordance with Agreements between the Crown and such parties.	TOTAL Fees paid to Mr. <i>Cates</i> .
	Capital.	Income.	TOTAL.				
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1871	—	137 14 3	137 14 3	61 19 —	75 15 3	—	137 14 3
1872	—	1,392 17 9	1,392 17 9	678 16 4	714 1 5	—	1,392 17 9
1873	207 — 2	2,614 18 —	2,821 18 2	849 11 5	1,972 6 9	33 12 —	2,855 10 2
1874	583 4 5	1,986 12 9	2,569 17 1	531 6 4	2,038 10 7	191 2 —	2,760 19 1
1875	166 4 8	1,760 2 5	1,926 7 1	686 17 2	1,239 9 11	197 8 —	2,124 15 1
1876	146 16 4	1,852 11 4	1,999 7 8	289 16 3	1,709 11 5	147 2 —	2,146 9 8
1877	161 11 4	1,430 10 4	1,592 1 8	558 18 5	1,033 3 3	46 3 6	1,638 5 2
1878	1,034 13 8	1,751 12 3	2,786 5 11	726 3 3	2,060 2 8	139 3 6	2,925 9 5
1879	258 14 5	1,826 3 —	2,084 17 5	702 13 2	1,382 13 4	161 7 —	2,246 4 5
1880	341 14 8	2,162 19 2	2,504 13 10	1,031 5 5	1,673 8 5	39 3 —	2,543 16 10
1881	135 7 4	3,088 18 9	3,224 6 1	1,087 14 5	2,136 11 8	87 6 —	3,311 12 1
1882	96 10 10	2,182 5 9	2,278 16 7	715 1 5	1,563 15 2	157 10 —	2,436 6 7
1883	522 6 4	3,592 18 10	4,115 5 2	1,428 — 3	2,687 4 11	162 3 6	4,277 8 8
1884	221 6 —	5,219 13 1	5,440 19 1	2,833 7 8	2,607 11 5	368 3 9	5,809 2 10
1885	323 1 4	4,985 15 11	5,308 17 3	1,024 14 9	4,284 2 6	99 — —	5,407 17 3
1886	622 11 6	2,053 14 —	2,676 5 6	711 2 4	1,965 3 2	316 10 —	2,992 15 6
1887	313 5 6	2,299 8 3	2,612 13 9	473 19 —	2,138 14 9	91 10 —	2,704 3 9
1880	294 15 1	1,763 11 8	2,058 6 9	683 14 1	1,374 12 8	107 12 6	2,165 19 3

APPENDIX, No. 18.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Spencer W. Gore*, 19 July 1889.

RETURN of Agricultural and Mineral Rents since my appointment as Receiver.

YEAR.	Rents of Surface.			Mineral Rents.			Sales of Produce.			Miscellaneous Receipts.			REMARKS.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1881 - -	21,735	12	7	2,784	9	6	333	11	8	100	-	-	Half-year.
1882 - -	37,527	3	8	5,522	19	6	613	19	5	90	8	11	
1883 ^a - -	38,767	10	11	5,970	13	8	584	6	3	384	5	3	^a About 1,000 <i>l.</i> of arrear cleared off this year, in- cluded in this amount.
1884 - -	36,749	-	10	5,847	9	7	578	11	3	498	6	4	
1885 - -	35,799	8	5	5,585	12	7	908	19	4	-			
1886 - -	35,419	11	2	6,239	16	11	726	13	9	7	-	-	
1887 - -	30,978	11	11	5,203	17	6	767	7	7	75	-	-	
1888 - -	29,801	9	10	5,677	4	4	782	14	7	22	15	6	
1889 - -	30,760	17	7	6,028	8	5	785	17	6	-			

The diminution of Rents received in 1882 and those in 1889 is 18 per cent.

APPENDIX, No. 19.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *George Culley*, 23 July 1889.

S C O T L A N D.

LAW AGENT.—MR. BEITH'S BILLS.

				Net Amount.		
				£.	s.	d.
1876 (half-year)	-	-	-	897	1	1
1877 -	-	-	-	1,617	15	8
1878 -	-	-	-	1,641	6	10
1879 -	-	-	-	129	-	10
1880 -	-	-	-	1,342	14	-
1881 -	-	-	-	739	2	11
1882 -	-	-	-	665	1	2
1883 -	-	-	-	918	8	-
1884 -	-	-	-	466	16	9
1885 -	-	-	-	1,082	15	8
1886 -	-	-	-	597	11	2
1887 -	-	-	-	2,365	2	9
1888 -	-	-	-	1,877	10	2
TOTAL - - - £.				14,340	7	-
AVERAGE - - £.				1,147	4	4

Note.—The figures for the last two or three years are the untaxed amount of the Bills.

APPENDIX, No. 20.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *George Culley*, 26 July 1889.

STATEMENT showing the RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE in respect of AGRICULTURAL

R E C E I P T.	1 8 8 8.	1 8 8 9.
	Amount.	Amount.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Crown rents - - - - -	110,149 1 4	110,454 5 2
Sales of produce of Crown estates, including woods under receivers -	5,963 10 2	5,785 9 7
Interest of purchase money of estates sold - - - - -	4,120 12 11	736 2 2
Miscellaneous receipts, including farms in hand - - - - -	5,456 5 9	2,430 5 7
	£. 125,689 10 2	119,406 2 6
Brought down - - - £.		
	125,689 10 2	119,406 2 6
<i>Deduct,—</i>		
Farms in hand, and woods managed by receivers - - - - -	11,212 19 7	8,020 10 1
	£. 114,476 10 7	111,385 12 5
Brought down - - - £.		
	125,689 10 2	119,406 2 6
<i>Add,—</i>		
Manors and mines - - - - -	49,752 9 4	50,950 14 11
	£. 175,441 19 6	170,356 17 5

NOTE.

This statement is intended to exhibit the gross income and expenditure on account of the Crown's landed estates, excluding the London house property, all fee farm rents, feu duties, and other rents issuing out of private property, the rents or profits derived from the Crown mineral property, and the Royal forests and woodlands managed by deputy surveyors. The expenditure, when not distinctly and solely attributable to the landed property, has been apportioned with as much exactness as possible.

APPENDIX, No. 20.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *George Culley*, 26 July 1889.LANDS, &c. (*see Note below*), for the Years ended the 31st March 1888 and 1889.

EXPENDITURE.	1888.		1889.	
	Amount.	Percentages.	Amount.	Percentages.
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	
Salaries and percentages of receivers, &c. - -	4,648 17 10	3·69	4,781 12 9	4·04
Incidental expenses of receivers, &c. - - -	220 9 2	·18	212 18 4	·17
Surveys, &c. of Crown property - - - -	594 2 4	·47	560 9 1	·46
Amount expended on repairs and improvements of Crown estates - - - - -	18,683 10 2	14·90	12,432 13 2	10·41
Property tax allowed to Crown tenants - -	3,347 13 4	2·66	2,874 16 2	2·40
Rates, taxes, &c. on Crown property, or donations in lieu thereof - - - - -	1,397 1 3	1·11	1,293 6 11	1·07
Fixed charges, stipends, and allowances - -	224 3 4	·17	197 19 5	·16
Donations to churches, schools, institutions, &c. -	665 9 -	·52	730 17 5	·61
Miscellaneous payments, including farms in hand -	5,434 13 1	4·30	2,909 5 6	2·43
£.	35,215 19 6	28·0	25,993 18 9	21·7
AVERAGE of Two Years - - - 25·0				
Brought down - - - £.	35,215 19 6	—	25,993 18 9	—
<i>Deduct,—</i>				
Farms in hand, and woods managed by receivers -	6,890 6 9	—	4,504 2 1	—
£.	28,325 12 9	24·7	21,489 16 8	19·2
AVERAGE of Two Years - - - 22·1				
Brought down - - - £.	35,215 19 6	—	25,993 18 9	—
<i>Add,—</i>				
Manors and mines - - - - -	5,077 16 2	—	5,203 11 9	—
£.	40,293 15 8	22·9	31,197 10 6	18·3
AVERAGE of Two Years - - - 20·7				

In comparing the figures and percentages with those given for private estates, it must be remembered that most private estates have some manorial or similar rents issuing out of other persons' property, which would be included in their estate accounts, and that there are few large estates that have not some mines and quarries, the profits of which would also be included. An alternative statement is therefore appended to show the percentages if the receipts from, and the expenditure on, manors and minerals were included.

The cost of managing farms in hand, and the woods which are managed by the receivers, is necessarily high; and a statement is also appended to show the percentages if these properties were excluded.

APPENDIX, No. 21.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *George Culley*, 26 July 1889.

WALES.

CROWN REVENUE.

ESTIMATE of AREA of LANDS in which the CROWN possesses MINERAL Rights.

	Unenclosed Waste Land still belonging to the Crown.			Lands, formerly Crown Land, which have been Sold since 1788, subject to a reservation of Mineral Rights (excluding Allotments under Inclosures).			Lands divided and allotted under Inclosure Acts of Parliament, subject to a Reservation of the Crown Mineral Rights (including Crown Allotments).			TOTAL
	1.			2.			3.			4.
NORTH WALES:	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A. R. P.
Anglesea - - - - -	—			1,992	0	30	4,032	0	0	6,024 0 30
Carnarvon - - - - -	8,288	3	5	10,986	3	12	31,649	0	0	50,924 2 17
Denbigh - - - - -	8,377	2	22	12,038	2	31	43,093	0	0	63,509 1 13
Flint - - - - -	1,306	1	26	2,773	2	39	8,134	0	0	12,214 0 25
Merioneth - - - - -	15,321	0	0	31,745	2	30	46,885	0	0	93,951 2 30
Montgomery - - - - -	—			1	2	12	—			1 2 12
SOUTH WALES:										
Brecon - - - - -	—			0	3	28	—			0 3 28
Cardigan - - - - -	26,476	2	3	15,572	1	1	13,021	0	0	55,069 3 4
Carmarthen - - - - -	13,071	3	36	2,454	3	26	7,987	0	0	23,513 3 22
Glamorgan - - - - -	—			498	3	32	—			498 3 32
Pembroke - - - - -	—			243	1	30	—			243 1 30
Radnor - - - - -	11,266	0	28	12,273	1	31	34,897	0	0	58,436 2 19
Monmouth - - - - -	2	0	0	280	2	19	130	0	0	412 2 19
	84,110	2	0	90,863	1	1	189,828	0	0	364,801 3 1

NOTES.

Column 2 does not include those lands which, after being sold, were divided and allotted; they are included under Column 3.

Column 3 does not include the lands inclosed, the minerals under which were afterwards sold by the Crown; they are as follows:—

Denbigh - - - - -	135 acres.
Brecon - - - - -	40,000 "
	40,135 "

APPENDIX, No. 22.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Donald Beith*, 26 July 1889.

SCOTLAND.

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

RETURN of the Particulars of Proceedings in the COURT OF SESSION, SCOTLAND, between the Earl of Fife and the Lord Advocate, as representing the COMMISSIONERS OF WOODS AND FORESTS.

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PROCEEDINGS.	COSTS.	
	Outlay.	Charges.
The question involved the title of the Crown to Arrears of Surplus Teinds, amounting to 694 <i>l.</i> 11 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> , and to the Teind itself, estimated to be worth 71 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> per annum	£. s. d. 1,039 9 7	£. s. d. 129 13 -

APPENDIX, No. 23.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Donald Beith*, 26 July 1889.

STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE, PROFESSIONAL CHARGES, and RECEIPTS, in connection with the Office of SOLICITOR in Scotland for the Office of HER MAJESTY'S WOODS AND FORESTS and other Government Departments, for the Period from 1st July 1876 to 31st December 1888.

	Outlays.	Charges.	Sums received.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
For half-year ended 31st December 1876 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	486 13 3	720 1 8	72 18 6
2. Board of Trade (Harbour) - - - - -	21 11 -	32 8 8	27 4 -
3. Board of Works - - - - -	- 7 6	61 2 8	2 4 1
4. Treasury - - - - -	19 14 2	9 3 -	-
5. War Department - - - - -	1 6 -	29 10 6	-
6. Education Board for Scotland - - - - -	45 6 8	46 4 -	2 2 -
7. Scotch Education Department - - - - -	7 2 6	4 10 6	-
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	582 1 1	903 1 -	104 8 7
Year ended 31st December 1877 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	706 19 3	948 10 2	239 2 5
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	215 3 5	149 18 9	60 15 3
3. Board of Works - - - - -	7 9 9	208 8 8	- 3 9
4. Treasury - - - - -	13 6 4	24 3 8	7 6 4
5. War Department - - - - -	11 18 3	37 6 9	-
6. Education Board for Scotland - - - - -	71 19 3	66 - 6	26 2 3
7. Scotch Education Department - - - - -	5 1 -	2 - -	-
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	1,031 17 3	1,436 8 6	333 10 -
Year ended 31st December 1878 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	1,260 1 4	876 5 10	498 18 2
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	84 2 3	128 2 2	511 4 10
3. Board of Works - - - - -	18 7 9	166 8 3	24 13 2
4. Treasury - - - - -	2 11 3	38 - 1	-
5. War Department - - - - -	31 - 11	129 12 4	17 10 10
6. Education Board for Scotland - - - - -	34 14 -	29 13 8	56 7 3
7. Scotch Education Department - - - - -	33 16 11	33 5 8	14 11 5
8. Prison Commissioners for Scotland - - - - -	8 16 -	12 3 6	-
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	1,473 10 5	1,413 11 6	1,113 5 8
Year ended 31st December 1879 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	2,337 8 -	672 7 2	2,878 5 4
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	78 10 6	113 19 10	144 4 9
3. Board of Works - - - - -	342 - 6	234 9 2	14 2 -
4. Treasury - - - - -	21 - 11	57 4 6	1 19 8
5. War Department - - - - -	33 4 11	129 17 -	12 12 5
6. Scotch Education Department - - - - -	2 7 6	1 10 -	-
7. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	76 8 10	87 9 8	9 14 1
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	2,891 1 2	1,296 17 4	3,060 18 3
Year ended 31st December 1880 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	918 11 7	455 2 6	31 - 1
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	13 - 6	32 15 -	86 11 4
3. Board of Works - - - - -	81 19 2	191 5 9	201 3 11
4. Treasury - - - - -	44 13 3	49 9 2	4 - -
5. War Department - - - - -	29 5 4	41 10 5	-
6. Scotch Education Department - - - - -	- 2 6	-	-
7. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	101 16 11	199 9 5	63 15 10
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	1,189 9 3	969 12 3	386 11 2
Year ended 31st December 1881 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	268 19 2	537 12 2	69 4 11
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	48 9 -	129 18 2	137 11 8
3. Board of Works - - - - -	11 19 6	200 19 4	33 16 6
4. Treasury - - - - -	57 10 6	56 1 10	42 - 5
5. War Department - - - - -	11 17 2	40 1 9	2 18 -
6. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	59 18 5	239 1 8	51 7 -
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	458 13 9	1,203 14 11	336 18 6

APPENDIX, No. 23—continued.

	Outlays.	Charges.	Sums received.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Year ended 31st December 1882 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	197 5 11	479 12 -	474 9 1
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	852 4 5	289 13 8	717 - 6
3. Board of Works - - - - -	23 13 9	88 11 3	19 15 9
4. Treasury - - - - -	36 5 -	49 16 10	- 18 6
5. War Department - - - - -	6 14 6	32 11 8	1 19 9
6. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	32 2 7	126 11 10	37 12 5
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	1,148 6 2	1,066 17 3	1,251 16 -
Year ended 31st December 1883 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	640 - 7	533 11 -	255 3 7
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	23 11 6	78 7 -	505 16 -
3. Board of Works - - - - -	14 13 7	66 8 -	1 19 2
4. Treasury - - - - -	33 9 3	56 4 7	1 19 7
5. War Department - - - - -	43 5 5	106 18 5	-
6. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	18 2 -	83 9 10	31 16 5
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	773 2 4	924 18 10	796 14 9
Year ended 31st December 1884 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	203 5 1	383 9 2	139 17 6
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	18 3 6	54 18 4	57 9 5
3. Board of Works - - - - -	59 7 5	78 8 9	6 4 1
4. Treasury - - - - -	5 12 7	50 1 6	-
5. War Department - - - - -	163 6 11	50 - 6	-
6. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	56 1 6	161 9 3	67 13 10
7. Educational Endowments Commissioners - - -	48 2 6	17 11 2	60 2 3
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	553 19 6	795 18 8	331 7 1
Year ended 31st December 1885 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	693 6 11	445 4 7	66 8 8
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	216 4 2	149 6 2	66 4 -
3. Board of Works - - - - -	9 3 9	112 6 11	- 6 -
4. Treasury - - - - -	26 19 6	63 - 10	-
5. War Department - - - - -	330 17 1	120 11 -	-
6. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	18 13 1	65 10 -	61 4 2
7. Educational Endowments Commissioners - - -	69 18 6	35 13 8	45 6 4
8. Scotch Education Department - - - - -	17 1 -	7 19 6	-
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	1,382 4 -	999 12 8	239 9 2
Year ended 31st December 1886 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	355 14 7	344 14 10	109 10 7
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	157 7 4	171 2 2	99 15 -
3. Board of Works - - - - -	4 4 2	67 14 3	-
4. Treasury - - - - -	672 4 10	256 9 8	4 19 7
5. War Department - - - - -	157 15 10	173 14 5	23 11 -
6. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	19 17 2	54 15 5	5 13 9
7. Educational Endowments Commissioners - - -	48 15 6	18 14 6	-
8. Scotch Education Department - - - - -	10 14 6	2 17 6	-
9. Secretary for Scotland - - - - -	149 18 3	42 11 -	21 17 -
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	1,576 12 2	1,132 13 9	265 6 11
Year ended 31st December 1887 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	1,883 16 2	592 19 2	90 5 1
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	18 8 11	69 6 2	87 3 6
3. Board of Works - - - - -	5 7 2	47 18 3	4 10 9
4. Treasury - - - - -	1,411 4 6	411 9 10	-
5. War Department - - - - -	291 8 1	178 2 4	-
6. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	11 14 5	27 8 7	22 15 2
7. Educational Endowments Commissioners - - -	56 9 -	27 17 10	40 5 10
8. Scotch Education Department - - - - -	13 3 -	4 5 6	-
9. Secretary for Scotland - - - - -	2 17 11	2 2 8	-
10. Home Department - - - - -	12 10 3	6 2 2	5 - -
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	3,656 19 5	1,367 12 6	250 - 4
Year ended 31st December 1888 :—			
1. Woods and Forests - - - - -	1,571 15 11	336 14 10	67 8 7
2. Board of Trade - - - - -	23 5 5	72 5 2	315 9 2
3. Board of Works - - - - -	26 6 -	113 1 -	- 9 4
4. Treasury - - - - -	627 11 5	152 9 2	27 17 5
5. War Department - - - - -	414 3 4	250 1 2	162 9 4
6. Prison Commissioners - - - - -	22 15 10	61 9 9	58 10 5
7. Educational Endowments Commissioners - - -	22 3 -	12 2 2	-
8. Scotch Education Department - - - - -	12 11 6	4 10 2	-
9. Secretary for Scotland - - - - -	- 10 -	9 13 -	1 11 6
10. Home Department - - - - -	- 10 -	- 5 -	-
Carry to Abstract, page 313 - - - £.	2,721 12 5	1,012 11 5	633 15 9

APPENDIX, No. 23—continued.

A B S T R A C T.

	Outlays.	Charges.	Sums received.	Net Annual Cost.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
For half-year to 31st December - 1876 -	582 1 1	903 1 -	104 8 7	1,380 13 6
For year ended 31st December - 1877 -	1,031 17 3	1,436 8 6	333 10 -	2,134 15 9
Ditto - - ditto - - 1878 -	1,473 10 5	1,413 11 6	1,113 5 8	1,773 16 3
Ditto - - ditto - - 1879 -	2,891 1 2	1,296 17 4	3,060 18 3	1,127 - 3
Ditto - - ditto - - 1880 -	1,189 9 3	969 12 3	386 11 2	1,772 10 4
Ditto - - ditto - - 1881 -	458 13 9	1,203 14 11	336 18 6	1,325 10 2
Ditto - - ditto - - 1882 -	1,148 6 2	1,066 17 3	1,251 16 -	963 7 5
Ditto - - ditto - - 1883 -	773 2 4	924 18 10	796 14 9	901 6 5
Ditto - - ditto - - 1884 -	553 19 6	795 18 8	331 7 1	1,018 11 1
Ditto - - ditto - - 1885 -	1,382 4 -	999 12 8	239 9 2	2,142 7 6
Ditto - - ditto - - 1886 -	1,576 12 2	1,132 13 9	265 6 11	2,443 19 -
Ditto - - ditto - - 1887 -	3,656 19 5	1,367 12 6	250 - 4	4,774 11 7
Ditto - - ditto - - 1888 -	2,721 12 5	1,012 11 5	633 15 9	3,100 8 1
£.	19,439 8 11	14,523 10 7	9,104 2 2	24,858 17 4
Add,—Outlays - - - - -		19,439 8 11		
	£.	33,962 19 6		
Deduct,—Sums received - - - - -		9,104 2 2		
NET TOTAL COST of Office since 1st July 1876 -		24,858 17 4		
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST - - - - - £.		1,988 14 2		

ABSTRACT of COST of OFFICE in connection with HER MAJESTY'S WOODS and FORESTS.

	Outlays.	Charges.	Sums received.	Net Annual Cost.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
For half-year to 31st December - 1876 -	486 13 3	720 1 8	72 18 6	1,133 16 5
For year ended 31st December - 1877 -	706 19 3	948 10 2	239 2 5	1,416 7 -
Ditto - - ditto - - 1878 -	1,260 1 4	876 5 10	488 18 2	1,647 9 -
Ditto - - ditto - - 1879 -	2,337 8 -	672 7 2	2,878 5 4	131 9 10
Ditto - - ditto - - 1880 -	918 11 7	455 2 6	31 - 1	1,342 14 -
Ditto - - ditto - - 1881 -	268 19 2	537 12 2	69 4 11	737 6 5
Ditto - - ditto - - 1882 -	197 5 11	479 12 -	474 9 1	202 8 10
Ditto - - ditto - - 1883 -	640 - 7	533 11 -	255 3 7	918 8 -
Ditto - - ditto - - 1884 -	203 5 1	383 9 2	139 17 6	446 16 9
Ditto - - ditto - - 1885 -	693 6 11	445 4 7	66 8 8	1,072 2 10
Ditto - - ditto - - 1886 -	355 14 7	344 14 10	109 10 7	590 18 10
Ditto - - ditto - - 1887 -	1,833 16 2	592 19 2	90 5 1	2,336 10 3
Ditto - - ditto - - 1888 -	1,571 15 11	336 14 10	67 8 7	1,841 2 2
£.	11,473 17 9	7,326 5 1	4,982 12 6	13,817 10 4
Add,—Outlays - - - - -		11,473 17 9		
	£.	18,800 2 10		
Deduct,—Sums received - - - - -		4,982 12 6		
NET TOTAL COST of Office since 1st July 1876 -		13,817 10 4		
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST - - - - -		1,105 8 -		
AVERAGE COST of the other GOVERNMENT OFFICES per annum - - - - - £.		883 6 2		

APPENDIX, No. 24.

PAPER handed in by Mr. George Culley.

POLICY of the COMMISSIONERS of WOODS, &c., in dealing with the LAND REVENUES of the CROWN.

SINCE the Committee of Inquiry in 1848-49, and the separation of the Departments of Woods and Works in 1851, it has been the policy of the Commissioners of Woods not only to manage the Crown property entrusted to their care with economy, and to increase its productiveness by a judicious outlay in repairs and improvements, but also to preserve the inheritance,—

1st. By the sale on fair and moderate terms of those portions of the Crown revenue which consist of ancient charges on the property of private individuals, and which are unimprovable and troublesome to collect.

2nd. By the sale of remote, detached or undesirable properties, and rights which are difficult to supervise and expensive to manage.

3rd. By investing the proceeds of these sales in—

(a.) The redemption of charges on the Crown estates which encumber the property and reduce its value.

(b.) The purchase for the Crown of properties which are either adjacent to Crown estates, or which, from their position or character, are likely to be desirable and remunerative investments.

In the absence of compulsory powers the Commissioners have only been able to pursue this policy by gradual steps, but the work has been steadily progressing, as will be seen from the following figures, which apply to the period between 1849 and 1888 :

1st. In pursuance of the policy of selling Crown charges on the property of private individuals, the following sales have taken place, viz. :

ENGLAND :	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Tithes - - - - -	2,197	-	-			
Fee farm and other unimprovable rents - - -	34,181	5	10	36,378	5	10
WALES :						
Fee farm and other unimprovable rents - - -	-	-	-	34,369	9	4
SCOTLAND :						
Fen duties and casualties - - - - -	26,211	1	6			
Teinds (tithes) - - - - -	37,252	-	-	63,463	1	6
IRELAND :						
Quit and other unimprovable rents - - - - -	-	-	-	305,477	5	3
ISLE OF MAN :						
Lords' rents - - - - -	-	-	-	32	5	-
	£.			439,720	6	11

2nd. In pursuance of the policy of selling remote, detached and undesirable properties, and rights, the following sales have taken place, viz. :

ENGLAND :	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Lands, foreshores, houses, and rights - - -	2,262,444	18	5			
Enfranchisement of copyholds - - - - -	143,488	12	11			
Miscellaneous - - - - -	50,277	10	7	2,456,211	1	11
WALES :						
Lands, foreshores, and rights - - - - -	85,535	8	7			
Encroachments on waste lands - - - - -	30,216	16	7			
Enfranchisement of copyholds - - - - -	536	11	-			
Miscellaneous - - - - -	888	18	6	117,177	14	8
SCOTLAND :						
Lands, foreshores, and rights - - - - -	112,971	5	8			
Miscellaneous - - - - -	1,339	8	11	114,310	14	7
IRELAND :						
Lands, foreshores, &c. - - - - -	98,949	13	9			
Miscellaneous - - - - -	51	9	-	99,001	2	9
ISLE OF MAN :						
Lands, foreshores, &c. - - - - -	10,275	16	8			
Miscellaneous - - - - -	218	18	-	10,494	14	8
ALDERNEY :						
Lands, houses, &c. - - - - -	-	-	-	5,759	6	10
	£.			2,802,954	15	5

3rd. In

APPENDIX, No. 24—continued.

3rd. In pursuance of the policy of—

(a.) Redeeming charges on the Crown properties, the following investments have been made, viz. :

ENGLAND :	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Redemption of tithes and tithe rent charges - - - - -	72,344	11	-	78,271	19	1
Redemption of fixed charges - - - - -						
Redemption of land tax - - - - -						
Enfranchisement of copyholds - - - - -	5,927	8	1			
WALES :						
Redemption of a fixed charge - - - - -				40,000	-	-
	£.			118,271	19	1

(b.) Purchasing properties adjoining other Crown estates, or likely from their position or character to be desirable investments, viz. :

ENGLAND :	£.	s.	d.
Purchase of estates, ground rents, &c. - - - - -	3,172,778	1	9
WALES :			
Purchase of estates, ground rents, &c. - - - - -	1,937	2	3
SCOTLAND :			
Purchase of estates, ground rents, &c. - - - - -	430	-	-
ISLE OF MAN :			
Purchase of estates, ground rents, &c. - - - - -	17,466	-	-
	£.	3,192,611	4 -

I N D E X.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX.

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5. <i>Area of Inclosed and Uninclosed Lands, respectively</i> - - - -	333	<i>RECEIVERS (CROWN PROPERTY)</i> - - - -	350
6. <i>Question of Sale of the Forest and of the Crown Rights</i> - - - -	333	<i>Rents</i> - - - - -	352
7. <i>Game in the Forest</i> - - - -	333	<i>SALES</i> - - - - -	352
8. <i>Power of the Crown as to Selling and Letting portions of the Forest</i> -	333	<i>SALMON FISHINGS (SCOTLAND)</i> - - - -	353
9. <i>Receipt and Expenditure generally</i>	333	<i>SCOTLAND</i> - - - - -	353
<i>Donations to Churches, Schools, &c.</i> - - -	334	<i>Surplus Teinds (Scotland)</i> - - - -	355
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I N D E X.

[N.B.—In this Index the Figures following the Names of the Witnesses, and those in the Analysis of Evidence of each Witness, refer to the Questions in the Evidence; and the Figures following *App.* to the Pages in the Appendix.]

A.

ACCOUNTS (RECEIVERS):

Explanation that each receiver has a separate account at his bank for the Crown receipts, and that he pays them ultimately, through the accountant in the Office of Woods, into the Bank of England; examination of the accounts by witness' department, and eventually by the Auditor General, *Kingscote* 1276-1300.

Details as to the manner in which the receivers render their accounts, and as to the examination of them in the Office of Woods; submission by witness of a statement showing Mr. Clutton's remittances and balance in hand for each month in 1886-87 and 1887-88; *Kingscote* 1496-1513.

Absence of any check upon the time for which the receivers keep the amounts received before paying them into the bank; grounds for the opinion that if the receivers paid the amounts direct to the Receiver General's account it would only complicate matters, *Kingscote* 1523-1538—Submission by witness of one of Mr. Clutton's monthly accounts, and explanation thereon as to the check upon the several payments made by him for wages, &c., *ib.* 1534-1539.

Examination of the accounts of witness, as Receiver General, in the Office of Woods prior to the annual audit by the Auditor General, *Higgins* 1981-1992. 2017-2025. 2046-2054.

Preparation by witness, as book-keeper, of the whole of the accounts for audit and for Parliament, *Burrough* 2055-2060—Examination of the monthly and annual accounts of the receivers by the Commissioners' Department, witness entering them, and sending them to audit when complete, *ib.* 2061-2070. 2079-2083. 2088-2105—Non-examination by witness in detail of the vouchers connected with the sub-accounts; absence of any mode of checking the date of receipt of the money by the receivers, *ib.* 2071-2076. 2084-2087—Explanation that witness acts as ledger clerk, as regards the Receiver General's day-book, *ib.* 2077, 2078. 2084.

As principal clerk to Colonel Kingscote witness superintends the examination of the receivers' accounts, *Hellard* 2116, 2117—Explanation that the monthly accounts show the receipts in lump sums, and that the annual accounts show them in detail; if the monthly accounts were in detail it would mean checking the rental twelve times a year, *ib.* 2118-2132—Evidence to the effect that on the auditors calling attention to the matter, the Treasury issued directions that the receivers should keep separate accounts of the Crown money in future, and that they have done so, *ib.* 2137-2145. 2181-2183—Information as to the way in which Mr. Clutton's annual accounts are checked, *ib.* 2161-2171—Possession of a banking account by each of the remaining receivers, who make payments within the authority that has been given them, *ib.* 2173-2176.

Suggestion that if any alteration be made in the mode of keeping the banking account, a separate Crown account should be kept in the receiver's name at the Bank of England, *R. Clutton* 2525-2529.

Payment by witness of his receipts into a separate banking account, whence they are sent to the Receiver General; no profit whatever is derived by witness from balances in hand, *Gore* 3220-3228.

Cash account in detail for the month of January 1888, as kept by Mr. John Clutton; list of instructions to be attended to in making up the account, *App.* 283-296.

Correspondence between the Commissioners of Woods and the Treasury in 1885 and 284.

ACCOUNTS (RECEIVERS)—continued.

1886, in reference to the Crown receivers keeping separate banking accounts for the monies received by them; final arrangement to that effect, *App.* 298–301.

Statement showing the names of the officers of the Department of Woods, &c., and of Windsor Great Park, who receive and account for public monies, with particulars of the amounts received, and of the banking accounts to which they are paid, *App.* 299, 300.

See also Receivers.

Acts of Parliament. Enumeration of the various Acts under which the Commissioners of Woods and Forests were constituted, the foundation Act being 10 Geo. 4. c. 50, and the Act under which the whole of the income is now carried to the Consolidated Fund being 1 Vict. c. 2, *Culley* 11–23.

Agents. *See Local Agents.* **Management and Staff.** **Receivers.**

Agricultural Lands. Evidence to the effect that the agricultural property of the Crown in charge of witness amounts to about 69,000 acres, of which about 1,178 acres are in hand and the balance let, the total rental being 82,081 *l.*; gradual decrease in the rental value during the last ten years, *Kingscote* 1075–1088. 1132, 1133. 1168–1171—Information as to the acreage in the various counties of the property under the charge of Mr. Clutton and Mr. Gore; submission of a map showing the distribution of the property, *ib.* 1892–1905. 1911–1915.

Supervision exercised by witness as regards more especially the agricultural property of the Crown, whilst all agents and others called in to advise are employed through his firm, *J. H. Clutton* 2816–2821—Explanation respecting the number and duties of the clerks employed by witness' firm upon Crown work, the payments to clerks amounting to about 3,000 *l.* a year; numerous applications and correspondence dealt with in connection with the various farms, buildings, repairs, &c., *ib.* 2822–2841—Total of about 130 farms, several comprising more than 600 acres, *ib.* 2829–2836.

Belief that the agricultural land was divided between the receiverships north and south by a straight line from east to west, *Sir R. N. F. Kingscote* 3457—Exceedingly low price obtained for a Crown farm near Benfleet, in Essex, recently sold by witness by public auction; equally low price realised by farms of private owners, witness being strongly adverse to any forced sales at the present time, *ib.* 4567.

Advocacy of the compulsory sale of the agricultural lands of the Crown; suggestions as to the process to be adopted for this purpose, *Arnold* 4200–4241—Estimate that at least 50,000 *l.* a year would be gained by selling the agricultural lands, partly by saving in the cost of administration; examination hereon as to the expediency of selling in small lots, and as to the probable price obtainable, *ib.* 4201–4222. 4226–4241. 4244, 4245.

See also Drainage. Farms in hand. Improvements. Leases. Management and Staff. Outlying Property. Rents. Sales.

Alderney. Chief income from Alderney derived from harbour dues, there being also tithes, fines, &c., the whole amounting to 332 *l.* in the year 1888; *Culley* 141–143—Peculiar position in regard to Alderney as the Office of Woods has to do a good deal of the business of Government, the revenue amounting to 332 *l.*, and the expenditure to 303 *l.* 12 *s.*; sale of property there in recent years to other departments, chiefly to the War Office and Admiralty, and also privately, *ib.* 307–311.

Abstract of income and expenditure under different heads for the last ten years, *App.* 226, 227.

Alice Holt Woods (Hants). Return showing the receipts and expenditure, together with the surplus or deficiency, in each year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888; *App.* 303.

Allotments (Labourers). Development of allotments during the last two years wherever there has been a reasonable demand for them; the rent varying from 30 *s.* to 50 *s.*; *Kingscote* 1757–1766. 1812, 1813. 1854–1865—Single instance in witness' experience, at Benningholme, of application for the purchase of land for allotment; doubt as to there being in the north any great demand for allotments, *Gore* 3355–3371. 3418–3420.

Allowances to Tenants. Comment upon the practice generally of the Commissioners of Woods as regards allowances to Crown tenants; much less done for old than for new tenants, *Hobbs* 3834. 3840. 3866, 3867.

Total allowances to Crown tenants in each of the years, 1850–71; *App.* 215.

Anglesea. Very small value of the mineral rights of the Crown in Anglesea, *Sir W. W. Smyth* 3089—Information as to the fee-farm rents and collection rents payable to the Crown by owners of land in Anglesey; nature of the title to these rents, *Culley* 3465–3481.

Architect

Report, 1889—continued.

Architect and Surveyor (Crown Estates in London). Explanatory statement in connection with the appointment of witness, in 1870, as architect and surveyor for the Crown estates in London; terms and conditions upon which he holds the office, his duties being manifold, *Cates* 2624 — Particulars respecting the scale of charges for witness' services, as fixed in 1870; modification as regards his remuneration for transactions between the Office of Woods and Office of Works, this being now settled by an annual payment of 60 l., up to a certain limit of value, *ib.* 2651-2657.

Statement of the total receipts of witness in each year since 1880, inclusive of the fees paid to him by the Crown lessees on the grant of building leases; direct payment of these fees to witness, without any formal return of the amount being rendered to the Office of Woods, *Cates* 2658-2673. 2721, 2722 — Difference between the total receipts of witness and the total of his bills against the Department; recovery of certain portions of his charges by the Department from the lessees and tenants, *ib.* 2660. 2669-2676.

Written instructions received by witness from the Commissioners of Woods in all cases in which he deals with Crown property and with lessees or tenants; he had no power to enter into a binding agreement, all applications and proposals being referred to the Commissioners for approval and final sanction, *Cates* 2677-2682 — Delrayment by witness of the entire expense of his office and staff, without any aid from the Department, *ib.* 2683 — Average of about 1,000 l. a year as the cost of witness' office and staff, *ib.* 2729.

Decided advantage to the Crown under the terms of witness' appointment, *Cates* 2730, — Similar duties discharged by him as by the surveyors to the Grosvenor, Norfolk, and other large private estates, *ib.* 2733-2736 — Special circumstances which account for the exceptionally large receipts of witness in 1883, 1884, and 1885; *ib.* 2763-2766.

Statement of Mr. Cates' fees in connection with the property under charge of Colonel Kingscote for each of the eighteen years, ended 31st March 1888, and showing the total charge upon the Land Revenues in respect of those fees in each year, *App.* 305.

See also *London*.

Arnold, Arthur. (Analysis of his Evidence.) — Lengthened period for which witness has devoted much time and attention to the subject of Crown lands and their administration, 4196-4199.

Conclusion as to the inexpediency of the distinction made by the Crown Lands Act of 1851 in placing revenue-producing lands under the Office of Woods, and lands not producing revenue (such as the public parks) under the Office of Works, 4199 — Views expressed by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goschen adverse to the system of administration by Commissioners, 4199 — Opinions of a Select Committee in 1863 as to the excessive expense of central administration in the case of ecclesiastical lands, 4199, 4200.

Proposition that the Crown lands or parks appertaining to Royal dignity or public recreation should be entirely under the Office of Works, 4200. 4242, 4243 — Advocacy of the compulsory sale of the agricultural lands of the Crown; suggestions as to the process to be adopted for this purpose, 4200-4241.

Proposal as regards the forests that they be disafforested, on equitable principles as regards the commoners, and that they be devoted to purposes of public recreation and the growth of timber, 4200. 4243. 4248-4250 — Estimate that at least 50,000 l. a-year would be gained by selling the agricultural lands, partly by saving in the cost of administration; examination hereon as to the expediency of selling in small lots, and as to the probable price obtainable, 4201-4222. 4236-4241. 4244, 4245.

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Statement as to the very large cost of administration by the Office of Woods; prejudicial effect, moreover, of central administration, 4236-4241 — Approval of the sale also, locally if possible, of the foreshore and fishing rights of the Crown, 4246.

Arrears of Rent (Crown Property). Total of 25,816 l. as the present amount of arrears of rent, 90,000 l., chiefly Welsh and Irish arrears, having been written off in 1888-89; *Kingscote* 1567-1570.

Ascot Heath. Settlement of the rental of the building property at Ascot Heath by the Crown Surveyor for Berkshire, subject to witness' approval and Treasury sanction; control of the race-course and the grand stand by witness, *Kingscote* 988-1008. 1172-1176. 1148-1155.

Audits (Receipt of Rents). Belief that Mr. Clutton, as receiver, either goes himself or sends his clerk to hold the audit and receive the money, there being no local banking account, *Hellard* 2127-2136 — Evidence to the effect that two audits a year are held on all the agricultural estates, and one on building estates, there being no audit in some few cases 284.

Audits (Receipt of Rents)—continued.

where the tenants pay by cheque, *R. Clutton* 2507-2510—Pay to witness of the bulk of the rents at the rent audits, these being held at several places in the district under his charge, *Gore* 3213-3216.

B.

Bagshot Park. Information as to Bagshot Park, one half of which is woodland, and comes under witness' department, *Kingscote* 1009-1014.

Bailiffs, Stewards, and others. See *Local Agents.* *Management and Staff.*

Bedford Estates. Statement showing for the Duke of Bedford's landed estates the percentage which the expenditure for fixed charges, management, repairs, and works, respectively, bears to rents for the years 1879 or 1880; *App.* 275.

Explanations in reports by Mr. Druce respecting remissions of rent, management expenses, repairs, &c., and the per-centage borne by the expenditure to the receipts, *App.* 277-280.

Beith, Donald. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Appointment of witness in 1870 as law agent in Scotland, of the office of Woods and Forests; several other public departments for which he acts as law agent, 4749-4751. 4754-4756.

Total of 14,523 *l.* as the net profit of witness in twelve-and-a-half years, or an average of about 1,100 *l.* a year; statement hereon as to the total amount of his bills, he having formerly been paid by salary, 4752 *et seq.*

Explanations respecting the litigation with the Earl of Fife in support of the claims of the Crown to surplus teinds in the parish of Elgin; heavy cost entailed, the case of the Crown having failed, 4773-4794.

Bere Woods (Hants). Return showing the receipts and expenditure, together with the surplus or deficiency in each year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888; *App.* 304.

Brown, Thomas Forster. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness has been deputy gaveller of Dean Forest for twenty-four years, having been a mining agent previously; he has practical control over the mining interests of the Crown in the forest, excepting at the time of re-assessment of the rents and royalties, 736-742.

Evidence to the effect that all men over twenty-one years of age, who have been born in the hundred of St. Briavels, and have worked a year and a day in a mine, are free miners; right of every free miner to not more than three gales, the grant of a gale being given to the first applicant, 743-749. 812—Variation in the area of the gale, it being ordinarily of such a size as would enable a man to carry on a colliery, 750-753—Explanation that the Crown has a right to one-fifth of the mineral after it has been brought to the surface; power of arbitration as between the Crown and the free miner to fix the amount of the royalty, 754-764.

Statement that the free miners never go to arbitration when the royalty is first fixed and very seldom when it is re-assessed twenty-one years afterwards, 764-771—Right of the free miner to sell his gale, which is granted to him in perpetuity; rarity of cases in which the free miners work their mines themselves, although the men are mostly working colliers, 772-778. 806 *et seq.*

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Copyholds. Realisation of 10,222 *l.* during the last four years by the sale of copyholds, including enfranchisements, under witness' department; explanation that the purchase-money goes into a general fund, which is invested in the most lucrative way that can be found, *Kingscote* 1819-1826. 1833-1836.

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Cottages (Farm Labourers). Policy of witness to put sufficient cottages under the farmers to meet their requirements, the cottages in the villages being under the Crown; the latter are let to the labourers on the terms that are customary in the district, *Kingscote* 1767-1778. 1846-1853—Statement to the effect that the purchase of cottages by the occupiers has never arisen, *Gore* 3346-3350—See also *Swine Estate.*

Culley, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is one of the two Commissioners of Woods and Forests, having been appointed in 1884, Colonel Kingscote being the other Commissioner, 1-4—When the offices of Woods and Works were united there were three Commissioners, but since their separation in 1851, there have been only two, 5, 6.

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Particulars respecting the staff and salaries of the London office, some of the officers, such as the Receiver General, the book-keeper, and the registrar, being common to the two departments; all the officers give the whole of their time, except the Chief Mineral Inspector, 24-42.

Information as to the chief officers for English properties under witness' charge; there is also a receiver for Scotland, with a clerical staff, and the separate staff in Ireland is a branch of the office in London, four local agents being occasionally employed for Wales, 42-49.

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Evidence to the effect that the fee-farm rents in England, realising 1,293 *l.*, are collected by Mr. Wilkin at a cost of 137 *l.* 16 *s.*: the rents are sold whenever possible, as they are not desirable property, 236-245. 427, 428—Collection of the Crown revenues in Wales, amounting to 13,106 *l.*, by Mr. Wilkin, the total expenses being 981 *l.* 2 *s.* 11 *d.*; 246-273.

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[Second Examination.]—Explanation that the 2,533 *l.*, given as the cost of collection and management of the rents and royalties on account of the mines in Dean Forest, includes the "property tax allowed," 366 *l.*, and the "moiety of tonnage paid to freeholders," 298; also, that the total expenditure for Dean Forest and High Meadow, exclusive of the mines, is 6,493 *l.*; 441-468.

Evidence to the effect that the timber in Dean Forest is not matured, the large timber having all been cut down for the Navy between 1854 and 1864; in order to get at the exact value of the produce per acre of woodland, it is necessary to take the income for a long series of years, 468-476.

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Scarcity of full-grown matured timber in the New Forest; a great fall of timber having taken place after the Deer Removal Act of 1853; statement of the amounts realised by the sale of timber in 1854 to 1858, and 1861, the greater part of the money having been expended to make the new plantation, 502-513—Deficit during the bad prices of the years 1885 to 1887, the oak timber being too young to sell profitably, and the Scotch fir having fallen very much in price, 514-516—Belief that there is very little woodland in the forest capable of carrying oaks of 150 years' growth, the best parts having been planted with oak once or twice in 400 or 500 years, 517, 518.

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the Crown has forestal rights over 65,000 acres, and planting and cutting rights over 17,670 acres, and owns 2,000 acres of freehold; great alteration in the position of the Crown as regards the forest caused by the Act of 1877, the power of cutting and planting being greatly limited and the preservation of the picturesque character of the ground provided for, 519-549—Explanation that the amount of ground out of which the Crown can make a profit is only 16,000 acres, the rest of the forest being a source of expense, and belonging, practically, to the public, 540-549.

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Explanation that the waste land in Dean Forest, High Meadow Woods, and the New Forest is pastured in common by the surrounding inhabitants, and that the only pecuniary interest of the Crown in it is the ownership of the minerals and the right to sell the gravel; opinion that the Office of Woods and Forests ought to have the power to grant a small portion for outfall sewage works without getting a special Act, 572-590—Absolute ownership by the Crown of only 500 acres in Wales, 591, 592.

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[Third Examination.] Explanation that it is the general practice, in a district like the New Forest, for the deputy surveyor to pay all outgoing rents, the balance being paid into witness' office direct at the end of the month, 2106-2115.

[Fourth Examination.]—Submission by witness of a statement of the gross income, gross expenditure, and payments into the Exchequer out of the net income for each year from the 5th January 1837 to the present time, showing that practically 15,000,000 l. had been received from the Crown lands since the Queen ascended the throne, 2268-2273, 2280-2287.

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D.

DEAN FOREST:

1. *Mines and Miners.*
2. *Timber.*
3. *Sites for Churches and Schools.*
4. *Common Rights.*
5. *Area of Inclosed and Uninclosed Land, respectively.*
6. *Question of Sale of the Forest and of the Crown Rights.*
7. *Game in the Forest.*
8. *Power of the Crown as to Selling and Letting Portions of the Forest.*
9. *Receipt and Expenditure generally.*

1. *Mines and Miners:*

Estimate of about 12,000 acres as the extent of the mineral property in Deane Forest, *Culley* 80-83—Particulars of the rents and royalties in connection with the coal, iron, &c., obtained from the mines in Dean Forest and Highmeadow Woods, the total income being 15,270 l.; limitation of the grant of the mines to free miners, the royalty being revised every twenty-one years, *ib.* 189-205—Information respecting the collection of the income, the principal officer being the deputy gavellet; and the total expenses amounting to 2,533 l.; *ib.* 206-235. 441-456.

Qualifications necessary to enable a man to be entered upon the register as a free miner; disposal of the grants in cases where more than one free miner applies on the same day, by lottery generally, the exception being the "Deep United Gale," where 174 free miners applied, and one was accepted as trustee for the whole of them, *Culley* 325-333. 391-394—Sale of the grant, subject to the payment of royalty by the free miner generally, as soon as possible after he gets it; inability of witness to dispose of it by tender, *ib.* 325, 326. 368-377. 334 *et seq.*—Settlement of the boundaries of the gales by the Act 1 & 2 Vict. c. 43, *ib.* 327-329—Explanation that after the coal is won, the full tonnage royalty is fixed, and the Crown gets one-fifth of it, *ib.* 343-367.

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Evidence to the effect that the free miners' rights in Dean Forest date back as far as the reign of Edward I., and that the free miners have a strong attachment to them; endeavours of the Office of Woods to get over the difficulties caused by these rights, *Culley* 550-594.

Witness has been deputy gavellet of Dean Forest for twenty-four years, having been a mining agent previously; he has practical control over the mining interests of the Crown in the forest, excepting at the time of re-assessment of the rents and royalties, *Brown* 735-742—All men over twenty-one years of age, who have been born in the hundred of St. Briavel's, and have worked a year and a day in a mine, are free miners; right of every free miner to not more than three gales, the grant of a gale being given to the first applicant, *ib.* 743-749. 812—Variation in the area of the gale, it being ordinarily of such a size as would enable a man to carry on a colliery, *ib.* 750-753.

Explanation that the Crown has a right to one-fifth of the mineral after it has been brought to the surface; power of arbitration as between the Crown and the free miner to fix the amount of the royalty, *Brown* 754-764—Statement that the free miners never go to arbitration when the royalty is first fixed, and very seldom when it is reassessed twenty-one years afterwards, *ib.* 764-771—Power of the free miner to sell his gale, which is granted to him in perpetuity; rarity of cases in which the free miners work their mines themselves, although the men are mostly working colliers, *ib.* 772-778. 806 *et seq.*

Desirability of the free-miner mode of tenure being brought to an end; opinion that the Government should in 1838 have limited the free miners' rights to the shallow workings only, *Brown* 779-781. 804, 805. 874—Comparative statement submitted as to the cost of winning coal from a shallow and a deep working, showing that the free miner's rights may be worth nothing to him in the deeper portion of the mineral field, *ib.* 781-803.

Statement that there are forty-four working coal mines and sixteen working iron mines in the forest, there being 160 gales not working; information as to the areas of the upper and lower coal series and of the iron-ore field, *Brown* 813-837—Belief that the Crown is getting its full royalty on the minerals; particulars as to the manner in which the output is checked, *ib.* 838-851. 871-875—Inability of the Crown to work any coal in the forest except by granting first to the free miner; tendency of the free miners' rights to restrict the output of coal, *ib.* 852-863.

Difficulty experienced in working the lower coal series on account of the quantity of water; conclusion that it would not be practicable for the Commissioners to drain the

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1. *Mines and Miners*—continued.

mines and charge an extra royalty for so doing, *Brown* 862-865 — Statement that witness has a man and a boy to do the surveying work, and a clerk to assist in receiving the rents half-yearly, *ib.* 866-870.

Personal inspection by witness of the iron and coal mines in Dean Forest in order to discuss their working with the deputy gaveler, *Sir W. W. Smyth*, 3043.

Exception taken to a statement as to the galees having given no support whatever to *Sir Henry Loch's* Bill of 1884; explanation that the galees approved generally of the provisions in the Bill as to compensation, and considered that otherwise the Bill might by some alteration be made advantageous to all parties interested, *Thomas* 3878-3889. 3904 3906 — Belief that the Bill was abandoned through the opposition of the free miners; objection by them mainly on account the inadequate compensation offering for buying them out, *ib.* 3886. 3893-3899.

Evidence strongly in favour of a power of amalgamation by owners of different gales with a view to joint working and pumping for developing the deep seams of coal; approval of the amalgamation of four gales already effected by the Crown, *Thomas* 3888-3903. 3947, 3948 — Expediency of the galees being relieved of the payment of arbitrary way-leaves concurrently with a power of consolidation of gales, *ib.* 3891, 3892. 3921-3930 — Conclusion as to the free miners and the maintenance of their rights being no obstacle to the amalgamation of gales, *ib.* 3893 3898. 3902, 3903. 3947.

Want of protection, by means of arbitration as to the terms upon which amalgamation and joint working may be carried out; this was not afforded by the Bill of 1884, *Thomas* 3904-3906 — Comment upon the custom whereby, when mines are not worked, the galees pay half the dead rent to the Crown, to the end of the five years, or forfeit the whole of the gale, *ib.* 3907-3920. 3939-3941 — Preference, on the whole, for a lease or gale of twenty-one years rather than sixty-three years, *ib.* 3941-3947.

Representation by witness of the free miners generally, as well as those who hold the United Deep Colliery Gale, *Elsom* 4020-4031. 4057 — Very high value attached to their rights by the free miners; considerable profit therefrom in the past, whilst it is submitted that they have operated in developing the coal measures and the general trade of the forest, *ib.* 4032 *et seq.* — Great satisfaction given to the free miners by the action of Mr. Culley in amalgamating several deep gales and in granting them to a body of 174 miners (witness acting as trustee); facilities thereby for the development of the lower seams, *ib.* 4042-4059. 4066-4069. 4084.

Respects in which the free miners are interested in gales being forfeited; desire, however, on their part for the development of the mines, *Elsom* 4060-4069 — Impossibility of assessing the capital value of the rights of the free miners; basis assumed by witness in placing it at 3,760,000 *l.*; *ib.* 4169-4179 — Grounds for complaint as to the exorbitant terms asked by the Commissioners for small pieces of land when required by the miners or commoners, *ib.* 4187-4195.

Paper handed in by Mr. Brown containing calculations as to the cost of mining, and the results as regards free miners, *App.* 228.

2. *Timber*:

Planting chiefly of oak, there being very little larch, *Culley* 409-413 — Evidence to the effect that the timber in the forest is not matured, the large timber having all been cut down for the Navy between 1854 and 1864; in order to get at the exact value of the produce per acre of woodland, it is necessary to take the income for a long series of years, *ib.* 468-476.

Very great care taken to preserve the beauty of the district, *Sir J. Campbell* 629-631 — Limitation of the cutting to decayed trees, there being very little timber now to cut down, *ib.* 632, 633 — Statement that the larger proportion of the small oak cut is required for pit work; decrease in the price realised for it owing to foreign competition, *ib.* 664, 665. 685-691.

Superiority of the soil of Dean Forest to that of the New Forest for oak-growing purposes, two-thirds of it also growing very good larch; expectation that there will be another fall of good timber in Dean Forest in about seventy years, *Sir J. Campbell* 670-675. 692-702 — Sales of timber effected by public tender for large quantities, and by private tender when the value of the wood is known; explanation that sales by auction were given up many years ago, *ib.* 676-684. 705, 706.

Inclusion of the whole cost of making the wood ready for market in the expenses of maintenance; explanation that the balance sheet is not a very good one, as the timber realises less and the labour costs more now than formerly, *Sir J. Campbell* 703, 704 — Statement that the trees are sold as they stand, the purchaser having to cut them down, except the wood from which flittern back is taken, and that witness makes a valuation of them previous to the sale, *ib.* 707-716. 725-735.

Undue price charged for such trees as are required for tip-room in working the mines, *Thomas* 3931-3938.

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3. *Sites for Churches and Schools:*

Power of the Crown to grant land in the forest for ecclesiastical purposes only; public grievance caused by the grant being limited to the Church of England, *Sir J. Campbell* 636-643.

Evidence in explanation and support of complaint as to the unreasonably high prices charged by the Commissioners for land in the forest for the erection of board schools; much lower price at which sites have been obtained from private owners, *Thomas* 3949-4009—Statement on the subject of free grants of sites of schools by the Crown, and of contributions in aid of the school buildings, *ib.* 3992-4019.

Evidence in detail in support of complaint as to the unequal and unfair treatment by the Commissioners of Woods of the Nonconformist bodies in the forest in the matter of sites for chapels and schools, whilst free grants and liberal contributions have been given to churches and to church schools and parsonages, *Elsom* 4088-4168. 4180-4186—

Large majority of the residents in the forest who are Nonconformists, there being also a large majority of churches over chapels; different bodies represented by witness in urging the foregoing grievance, *ib.* 4088-4095.

4. *Common Rights:*

Suggestion that all rights of common in the forest be valued and everybody made to pay their due proportion, in order to remove the grievance felt by the ratepayers, *Sir J. Campbell* 634, 635, 668, 669—Assertion that nine-tenths of those who avail themselves of the common rights have no rights at all; large number of sheep and other animals turned out in the forest in summer time, *ib.* 648-656. 717.

Great value of the common rights enjoyed by the foresters, as well as by the free miners, *Elsom* 4070-4078—Approval of the continuance of the *status quo* as regards the common rights of the free miners; objection to the latter being rated in their common rights concurrently with the Crown being rated on the standing timber, *ib.* 4078-4087—Unfounded charge against the foresters that they are "born poachers," *ib.* 4087.

5. *Area of Inclosed and Uninclosed Land, respectively:*

Belief that at present there are about 4,000 acres inclosed in the forest out of the 11,000 authorised by the Act and that 18,000 of the total 22,000 acres are open to the public; increase in the cost of superintendence due to so many acres being open, *Sir J. Campbell* 628. 661-663. 718-724.

6. *Question of Sale of the Forest and of the Crown Rights:*

Statement that before the forest could be sold, the rights of the commoners and free miners would have to be got rid of; belief that if it could be disafforested and sold, the result would be a pecuniary benefit to the Crown, *Culley* 315-318. 414-419—Great beauty of some parts of the forest, a very large number of people now visiting it; objection to its being sold and treated as a game preserve, *ib.* 565-571.

Inability of witness to give any idea of the capital or saleable value of the rights of the Crown in the Forest of Dean and the New Forest; belief that it would be very difficult to find a purchaser, *Culley* 593-598.

7. *Game in the Forest:*

Scarcity of game in the forest, it having been considered better to give the deer up than risk the lives of the keepers against poachers, *Sir J. Campbell* 666, 667.

8. *Power of the Crown as to Selling and Letting Portions of the Forest:*

Power of the Crown to let land in the forest for colliery and mineral purposes only, *Sir J. Campbell* 625-627—Right of the Crown to sell small quantities of land in the forest that are unfit for the growth of timber, and to exchange pieces of land in order that the inclosures may be free from freehold patches, *ib.* 644-648. 657-663.

9. *Receipts and Expenditure generally:*

Details of the income arising from Dean Forest and High Meadow Woods, and of the staff occupied in collecting it, showing that the total cost of collecting 9,500 *l.* a year is about 2,600 *l.*, exclusive of the London establishment, *Culley* 144-188—Explanation that the amount given as the cost of collection and management of the rents and royalties on account of the mines in Dean Forest includes the property tax allowed, 366 *l.*, and the "moiety of tonnage paid to freeholders," 298 *l.*; also that the total expenditure for the forest and High Meadow, exclusive of the mines, is 6,493 *l.*, *ib.* 441-468.

Paper handed in by Mr. Culley, containing particulars of salaries, incidental expenses, &c., the total amounting to 1,869 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.*; *App.* 213.

Names, duties, and remuneration of the staff employed in connection with Dean Forest and High Meadow Woods, *App.* 242, 243.

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Return showing the receipts (inclusive and exclusive of mines), together with the surplus or deficiency, in each year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888; *App.* 302, 303.

Defalcations. Entire absence of defalcations on the part of the Crown receivers, *Culley* 2309-2311.

Delamere Woods. Very little return derived from Delamere Woods, *Gore* 3305-3309.

Donations to Churches, Schools, &c. Diminution in the annual amount of the donations to churches and schools; limitation, with one exception, of the donations to the Church of England, *Kingscote* 1122-1131 — Explanation that many donations are granted to Church of England establishments, although not authorised by the Act, upon the authority of the Law Officers of the Crown, *ib.* 1692-1708.

Positive statement that the Law Officers of the Crown have advised the department that under the Act grants of land and money must be limited to establishments connected with the Church of England in England, and the Established Church of Scotland in Scotland, *Gorst* 2202-2208. 2212-2234. 2239 *et seq.* — Advice to the foregoing effect was originally given by one of witness' predecessors in 1840, and was confirmed last January by the Law Officers of the Crown, *ib.* 2240-2247. 2266, 2267 — Belief that the Commissioners make the donations to churches and schools under the 113th section of the Act, and that the Law Officers' advice of January last limits the donations to the Established Churches, *ib.* 2248-2265.

Belief that the opinion of the Law Officers was obtained in January last, in order to secure uniformity of practice as regards donations; conclusion that, except board schools and Church of England voluntary schools, there are very few schools to which contributions could be made under the Treasury Order, *Culley* 2275-2279. 2288-2292 — Considerable diminution in the donations since 1878, probably due to the rise of rate-aided board schools; opinion that the Crown paying rates instead of giving donations is only a difference in form, the amount being the same, *ib.* 2297-3304.

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Drainage (Crown Estates). Details respecting the supervision and execution of drainage works, these being in charge of Mr. Grantham as engineer, with a foreman under him in each case; degree of responsibility of witness' firm in the matter, *J. H. Clutton* 2913-2950.

Explanatory statement respecting the detailed practice in initiating and carrying out drainage works; due precautions taken on the score of superintendence, *Kingscote* 3440, 3441 — Employment of a competent foreman on each important drainage work, his cost being included in the estimate, *ib.* 3440, 3441. 3448, 3449.

E.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Employment of some of the staff of witness' firm on work for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and on general work as well on Crown work; very large income (much more than 80,000 *l.* a year) collected by the firm for the Commissioners, *R. Clutton* 3014-3029.

Elsom, Sydney. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness, who is a Baptist minister at Yorkley, in the Forest of Dean, is also a free miner, and represents the free miners generally, as well as those who hold the United Deep Colliery Gale, 4020-4031. 4057.

Very high value attached to their rights by the free miners; considerable profit therefrom in the past, whilst it is submitted that they have operated in developing the coal measures, and the general trade of the forest, 4032 *et seq.* — Great satisfaction given to the free miners by the action of Mr. Culley in amalgamating several deep gales, and in granting them to a body of 174 miners (witness acting as trustee); facilities thereby for the development of the lower seams, 4042-4059. 4066-4069. 4084 — Respects in which the free miners are interested in gales being forfeited; desire, however, on their part for the development of the mines, 4060-4069.

Great value of the common rights enjoyed by the foresters, as well as by the free miners, 4070-4078 — Approval of the continuance of the *status quo* as regards the common rights of the free miners; objection to the latter being rated on their common rights concurrently with the Crown being rated on the standing timber, 4078-4087 — Unfounded charge against the foresters that they are "born poachers," 4087.

Evidence in detail, in support of complaint as to the unequal and unfair treatment by the

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Elsom, Sydney. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

the Commissioners of Woods of the Nonconformist bodies in the forest in the matter of sites for chapels and schools, whilst free grants and liberal contributions have been given to churches and church schools and parsonages, 4088-4168. 4180-4186—Large majority of the residents in the forest who are Nonconformists, there being also a large majority of churches over chapels; different bodies represented by witness in urging the further grievance, 4088-4095.

Impossibility of assessing the capital value of the rights of the free miners; basis assumed by witness in placing it at 3,760,000 *l.*; 4169-4179—Grounds for complaint as to the exorbitant terms asked by the Commissioners for small pieces of land when required by the miners or commoners, 4187-4195.

Encroachments upon Wastes. Receipts in Carnarvonshire, and other counties, in respect of encroachments which have been made upon the wastes of Crown manors, *Culley* 3510-3516—Further statement on the subject of sales of encroachments in Wales; receipt of 30,216 *l.* under this head since 1850, *ib.* 3587-3595—Total annual receipts since 1850; *App.* 216.

Emfranchisement of Copyholds. Total annual receipts under this head since 1850; *App.* 216—Amount of expenditure in different years, *ib.* 217.

Esher Woods. Information as to the timber grown in Esher Woods, and as to its general management and mode of sale, *J. H. Clutton* 2956-2965.

EXPENDITURE:

Impossibility of giving the cost of the collection of the rental of 82,081 *l.* from the agricultural lands, the cost of repairs, &c., without great difficulty, *Kingscote* 1117-1121. 1147—Belief that the expectation that a more economical management would result from the separation of the Office of Woods from the Office of Works has been realised, the outgoings having been diminished from over 50 per cent. of the income in 1850 to about 24 per cent. last year; statement as to income and expenditure handed in, *ib.* 1573-1590. 1643-1665. 1686-1691—Estimate that 25 to 30 per cent. would be an ordinary deduction for outgoings on a good estate of considerable extent, *ib.* 1591-1594. 1643-1648. 1668-1685.

Information as to the reasons for the fluctuation in the amount of the payments under "Salaries, &c. of Receivers," "Incidental Expenses of Receivers" "Mines," "Repairs," and "Donations to Schools, &c.," the total outgoings for the last few years amounting to somewhat under 100,000 *l.* a year upon an income of something under 507,000 *l.* a year, *Kingscote* 1620-1642—Statement that witness holds himself responsible as regards expenditure, and as to whether the expenses are to be paid out of income or out of the capital fund *ib.* 1877-1890.

Examination as to the reasons for the expense of agency, &c., amounting to about 7½ per cent. on the nominal rental for the whole agricultural property in charge of witness, or at the rate of about 100 *l.* for every 1,000 acres in charge; inclusion of expenditure for plans, for checking the proper execution of the works, and various other matters, *J. H. Clutton* 2842 *et seq.*—Inclusion of the charges for general management and receipt of rents in the remuneration of 4 per cent. (3,241 *l.*) paid to witness' firm on the rental; that is, in their capacity as receiver, *ib.* 2967-2971—Regulation of their remuneration as surveyors (nearly 2,000 *l.*) with reference to the cost of the works carried out, *ib.* 2972-2982—Doubt as to the relative amounts of nominal rental and actual receipts with reference to the cost of management, *ib.* 2991-3000.

Explanation that though the net profit derived by witness' firm from their management of the Crown estate is not more than 1,000 *l.* a year, the firm would object to the principle of direct payment by salary at the rate of 1500 *l.* a year, *R. Clutton* 3007-3013.

Returns submitted by Mr. Culley showing the total nominal payments of the Commissioners under different heads since 1850, *App.* 214, 215. 217.

Return, together with supplemental statement, showing the expenditure for the last fourteen years, *App.* 218-221.

General abstract of expenditure under different heads in each of the last ten years, *App.* 223. 225. 227.

Return of the names, duties, and remuneration of persons employed in the administration of the Department of Woods, &c., *App.* 238-252.

Paper handed in by Mr. Culley showing the income from all sources of the property in his charge, the expenditure under different heads, and the per-centage of expenditure in respect of receipts, *App.* 229.

Gross expenditure in each year from 5th January 1837 to 31st March 1888, *App.* 297.

Returns of annual expenditure since 1849 in respect of the several forests and woodlands; per-centage of expenditure to receipts, *App.* 302-304.

EXPENDITURE—continued.

Statement handed in by Mr. Cullev showing the receipt and expenditure in respect of agricultural lands, &c., for the years ended 31st March 1888 and 1889; per-centages of expenditure under different heads, *App.* 308, 309.

See also *Accounts. Agricultural Property. Architect and Surveyor. Bedford Estates. Dean Forest. Improvements. Income. Legal Expenses. Management and Staff. Mines and Minerals. New Forest. Receivers. Windsor Parks and Woods.*

F.

Farms in Hand. Particulars of the farms included in the 1,178 acres in hand, there being no pasturage on the two farms which occupy the bulk of the land, *Kingscote* 1134-1146 — Explanation that Mr. Clutton receives a fee in cases where a working bailiff is appointed to a farm, because he is responsible for the working of the farm, and has to visit it, *ib.* 1304-1332.

Statement that the policy of spending a considerable amount on stocking a farm that comes to hand in a worn out state is generally successful; considerable value of the stock and crops on the Shrobwalk and Whichwood farms, *Kingscote* 1736-1744 — Probability that if a profit and loss account of the farms in hand could be completed it would show a considerable loss, *ib.* 1872-1876.

Special fees of witness' firm for the management of farms in hand, *Clutton* 2986-2990.

Statement showing the acreage of the various farms in charge of Colonel Kingscote, and the rents received in the year 1888-89; *App.* 230-235.

Fee Farm Rents. Evidence to the effect that the fee farm rents in England, scattered over the various counties and realising 1,293 £ in 1888, are collected by Mr. Wilkin at a cost of 137 £ 16 s.; these rents are sold whenever possible, as they are not desirable property, *Culley* 84-89. 236-245. 427, 428 — Very small sums (such as 6 d. or 4 d.) collected as fee-farm rents from numerous holdings; sale of these as opportunity arises at twenty-five years' purchase, *ib.* 3626-3630. 3636-3639.

Particulars of receipts in respect of fee-farm and collection rents in Wales in 1887-88; *App.* 258-274.

Feu Duties (Scotland). Explanations respecting the Crown's right to feu duties and casualties, the mode of collection, amount, &c., *Culley* 4266-4272 — Revenue of 11,629 £ from feu duties in 1888; *ib.* 4331.

Details respecting sales of feu duties, the terms having been reduced from twenty-eight to twenty-two years' purchase, on account of the difficulties of collection; desire shown by the Commissioners to give every facility to purchasers, though only about one-tenth have been sold, *Culley* 4332-4359.

Statement of receipts in each year since 1855; *App.* 253, 254 — Total receipts from sales in each year since 1856; *ib.* 256.

Fife, Duke of. See *Surplus Teinds.*

Fines (Leases). Frequency of fines being taken in reduction of rents under repairing leases in London, *Cates* 2730 — Annual receipts from fines since 1850; *App.* 214.

Fishing Rights. Approval of the sale of the fishing rights of the Crown, *Arnold* 4246. — See also *Salmon Fishings (Scotland).*

Foreshore. Distribution of miscellaneous items of receipt, amounting to 9,051 £, such as foreshores, sporting rights, &c., over twenty-three counties, the principal being the 3,000 £ paid by the Thames Conservancy in connection with certain parts of the tidal portions of the Thames, *Kingscote* 1223-1226 — Sale of foreshores restricted to the frontagers, corporations, &c., *ib.* 1827-1832.

Considerable extent of foreshore in Anglesey, and other parts of Wales, over which rights are possessed by the Crown; non-interference with any public rights that may exist when foreshore is sold, *Culley* 3482-3491. 3631-3635 — Explanation as to leases or sales of foreshore in connection with piers, &c.; exclusive rights conveyed, subject to non-interference with the navigation, or with any existing public rights, *ib.* 3541-3546. 3620-3625. 3631-3635. 3651-3662 — Similar powers of the Board of Trade over the foreshores conveyed to that department in 1866, as of the Office of Woods, in respect of the foreshores reserved under the Act of that year, *ib.* 3616-3619.

Approval of the sale of the Crown's foreshore rights, *Arnold* 4246.

Particulars of receipts in 1887-88 in respect of foreshore leased or sold in Wales, *App.* 258-273.

Forests. Proposal as regards the forests that they be disafforested, on equitable principles as regards the commoners, and that they be devoted to purposes of public recreation and the growth of timber, *Arnold* 4200. 4243. 4248-4250.

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Forests—continued.

Returns showing the receipts and expenditure for the several forests and woods in each year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888, together with the surplus or deficiency in each case, *App.* 302-304.

See also *Dean Forest.* *New Forest.*

Free Grants. Inability of the Commissioners to make free grants of land to any other than the Church of England, although they can sell it or lease it at a proper value to dissenters, *Kingscote* 1779-1790—Reiteration of statement that the department is advised that the Crown has no power to make free grants of land and money to churches, chapels, schools, &c., that are not connected with the Established Church of England or of Scotland, *Gorst* 2202-2208. 2212-2234. 2239 *et seq.*

See also *Donations to Churches, &c.*

G.

Gold Mines (Wales). Long period over which the attention of witness has been given to the subject of gold mining in Wales, *Sir W. W. Smyth* 3087, 3088. 3137—Part taken by witness in fixing the royalty upon gold in Wales; particulars hereon, together with explanations as to the small amount of real mining work done under the licenses hitherto granted, and the obstacles to profitable working by companies with large capital, *ib.* 3112-3158.

Obligation as to the payment of royalty to the Crown, as well as rent or royalty to private owners, though the mines may not be worked at a profit; doubt as to the expediency of not exacting the royalty till a profit has been reached, *Sir W. W. Smyth* 3147-3158.

Large number of "take notes," or licenses to explore, granted by witness in connection with gold in Wales; steps taken for reducing the number of take notes held by any one person, *Culley* 3546-3555—Receipt of about 1,000 *l.* by the Crown by way of royalty; exceptional instances of plant and machinery having been put up, *ib.* 3556-3560.

Gore, Spencer W. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Explanation that witness' firm (Smith and Gore) are receivers for the North of England estates of the Woods and Forests, and act also for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; total of 21,000 acres of agricultural Crown land and 3,183 acres of wood land in their charge, 3163-3184—Collection by the firm of mining rents to the amount of 5,282 *l.*, the gross agricultural rental being about 29,200 *l.*; 3185-3192—Formal rental of about 36,000 *l.*; decline of about 6,000 *l.* through the depression in the last ten years, 3188-3192. 3287, 3288.

Poundage of 2½ per cent. received by the firm on some of the rents, and of 4 per cent. on others, the gross receipts in the year 1888-89 having been 1,471 *l.*, 3193-3200—Details respecting the charges for clerks' salaries, rent of office, travelling and hotel expenses, cost of local agents, &c.; net total of about 670 *l.* as the remuneration of the firm for the receivership, 3201-3212. 3264-3266. 3274-3281—Items or fees received for superintending drainage, carrying out buildings, and other matters appertaining to the surveyorship of the property, the total remuneration of the firm being much less than 1,000 *l.* per annum, 3196. 3208-3212. 3289-3294. 3407-3411. 3432-3434.

Payment of the bulk of the rents at the rent audits, these being held at several places, 3213-3216—Frequent visits of inspection by witness, 3217-3219—Payment of the receipts into a separate banking account, whence they are sent to the Receiver General; no profit whatever is derived from balances in hand, 3220-3228.

Advantage if some of the outlying properties could be sold; great difficulty at present in getting a fair price, 3229-3241. 3263. 3312-3316. 3388-3405. 3421-3428—Very few changes of tenancy since witness has been receiver, whilst there is no farm in hand; fair rents charged, considerable reductions having been made, 3242-3249. 3325-3327. 3406—Varying returns from the mineral property, this being in charge of Sir Warington Smyth, 3250-3254.

Explanation of the practice in carrying out new buildings, repairs, drainage, &c.; employment of local agents or foremen on the different works, the tenants being charged interest on the outlay, 3255-3270. 3295-3304. 3320-3324. 3407-3417—Very little return derived from Delamere Woods, whilst there is a deficiency on Chopwell Woods, 3305-3309.

Particulars respecting the cottages on the Swine estate (York), and the practice as to letting them to farmers, labourers, and others, 3328-3345—Statement to the effect that the purchase of cottages by the occupiers has never arisen, 3346-3350—Very few, if any, cottages at Sunk Island, except those built for the farms, 3351-3354—Single instance (at Benningholme) of application for the purchase of land for allotment

Gore, Spencer, W. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

doubt as to there being in the north any great demand for allotments, 3355-3371. 3418-3420—Probability that the site of the chapel on Sunk Island was given by the Crown as a free grant, 3375-3380.

Payment of tithes, where they exist, by the tenants; improvement if they were paid by the Crown as landlord, 3381-3387—Management of the property in charge of witness irrespectively of the system of management of that in charge of Mr. Clutton, 3435-3439.

[Second Examination.]—Explanation that in the case of the works at Sunk Island witness had charges to the amount of twenty-five guineas against the Commissioners, the works extending over three years, 4561-4566.

Gorst, Thomas William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is solicitor to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and is remunerated by a salary of 1,500 *l.* a year, with an allowance of about 1,270 *l.* for clerks; the charges to lessees are not paid to witness, 2184-2194—Employment of agents by witness in various parts of England, 2195, 2196—All agreements, leases, &c., are printed; in the case of letting a cottage an *ad valorem* charge upon the rental would be made, 2197-2201.

Positive statement that the Law Officers of the Crown have advised the department that, under the Act, grants of land and money must be limited to establishments connected with the Church of England in England, and the Established Church of Scotland in Scotland, 2202-2208. 2212-2234—Belief that the department has no power, other than the general power of management, to grant money for improvements on the Crown property; certainty that there is no power to grant land for such purposes, 2209-2211. 2214. 2235.

[Second Examination.] Reiteration of previous statement that the department is advised that the Crown has no power to make free grants of land and money to churches, chapels, schools, &c., that are not connected with the Established Church of England or Scotland, 2239 *et seq.*—Advice to the foregoing effect was originally given by one of witness' predecessors in 1840, and was confirmed last January by the Law Officers of the Crown, 2240-2247. 2266, 2267—Belief that the Commissioners make the donations to churches and schools under the 113th Section of the Act, and that the Law Officers' advice of January last limits the donations to the Established Churches, 2248-2265.

Ground Rents. Information as to ground-rents, there being 5,790 houses erected by lessees chiefly in Middlesex, total of these rents in 1887-88, about 205,712 *l.*, *Kingscote* 1214-1216.

Expenditure by the Crown of 1,396,700 *l.* in the years 1873-89 in the purchase of freehold ground-rents in London, producing 53,820 *l.* per annum, or about 4 per cent., *Cates* 2696-2698. 2773-2778. 2804, 2805—Conclusion as to the soundness of the Crown investments in ground-rents, notwithstanding the movement in favour of their being taxed, *ib.* 2779-2783.

Investment of the capital of the Land Revenue in ground rents at about twenty-six years' purchase, *Calley* 3636-3640.

Statement showing the ground-rents derived from property in charge of Colonel Kingscote, *App.* 230-235.

See also London.

H.

Hellard, Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is principal clerk to Colonel Kingscote, and superintends the examination of the receivers' accounts, 2116, 2117.

Explanation that the monthly accounts show the receipts in lump sums, and that the annual accounts show them in detail; if the monthly accounts were in detail it would mean checking the rental twelve times a year, 2118-2132—Belief that Mr. Clutton either goes himself or sends his clerk to hold the audit and receive the money, there being no local banking account, 2127-2136—Evidence to the effect that on the auditors calling attention to the matter the Treasury issued directions that the receivers should keep separate accounts of the Crown money in future, and that they have done so, 2137-2145. 2181-2183.

Conclusion that there is no practical test that the Act is complied with as regards the receivers paying over the rents, &c., as soon as they receive them; belief that there would be no difficulty in entering the dates of receipt from a copy of the receivers' cash-book, 2137-2160. 2177-2180—Information as to the way in which Mr. Clutton's annual accounts are checked, 2161-2171.

Statement that Mr. Higgins pays all amounts in, but that all payments out are made by the Commissioners, 2172—Possession of a banking account by each of the remaining receivers, who make payments within the authority that has been given them, 2173-2176.

[Second

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Hellard, Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—continued.

[Second Examination.]—Submission by witness of the correspondence that passed between the department and the Treasury with reference to the receivers keeping distinct banking accounts, 2503.

Higgins, Warner Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is Receiver General, having his office in the building where the rest of the work respecting woods and forests is conducted, 1950-1952. 1996, 1997.

Evidence to the effect that the rents of Crown property in London and Middlesex are paid direct to witness, and that he pays all money received daily into the Bank of England; entry by him of all receipts in a cash-book, 1953-1964, 1993-1995 — Payment by the receivers generally by cheque to witness, Mr. Clutton sometimes paying direct to the Bank of England, 1965-1975. 2013-2016.

Statement that all cheques upon the Commissioners' account are drawn by witness on written authority, 1976-1980. 2008-2012 — Examination of the accounts in the office prior to the annual audit by the Auditor General, 1981-1992. 2017-2025. 2046-2054.

Purely mechanical nature of witness' duties as Receiver General; he is responsible for the collection of the London and Middlesex rents, 1993-1995. 1998-2007. 2038-2046 — Receipt of 250,388 l. by witness in 1888-89 as receiver for Middlesex, 2026-2031. 2038 *et seq.* — Information as to the process by which the money paid to the receivers reaches the Bank of England, 2031-2037.

Highmeadow Woods. Return showing the receipts (including mines) and expenditure, together with the surplus or deficiency, in each year, from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888; *App.* 303. — See also *Dean Forest.*

Hobbs, Benjamin. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Examination in detail as to the grounds upon which witness strongly complains of his treatment by the Commissioners of Woods in his late capacity of sub-lessee, under Mr. Edelsten, of the Leafield Farm, on the Whichwood Estate, 3697-3705. 3711 *et seq.*

Explanations also in support of complaint as to the action of the Crown in the case of Potter's Hill Farm, at Whichwood, of which farm witness was assistant manager for twelve years, 3705-3710. 3829-3834.

Comment upon the practice generally of the Commissioners of Woods as regards allowances to tenants; much less done for old than for new tenants, 3834. 3840. 3866, 3867 — Reduced rents in witness' neighbourhood, whilst there are many farms in the landlords' hands, 3841-3850.

Holborn Viaduct. See *London.*

Houses. Information respecting 450 houses and buildings, the property of the Crown, let at rents which have been fined down, 302 being in Middlesex, and the remainder distributed through twelve different counties; the aggregate amount of these rents in 1887-88 was about 63,000 l.; *Kingscote* 1193-1214.

Statement showing the rents derived from houses and other buildings in charge of Colonel Kingscote, *App.* 230-235 — Number of houses in different counties in charge of Colonel Kingscote, *ib.* 236.

See also *Architect and Surveyor.* *Ground Rents.* *London.*

I.

Improvements (Crown Estates). Evidence to the effect that the advances since 1886 in respect of permanent improvements under the Crown Lands Act, 1886, amount in the aggregate to 367,968 l., of which 143,717 l. has been repaid; confidence of witness that this account is in a satisfactory state, *Kingscote* 1550-1566. 1624-1631 — Submission of a document showing the advances, repayments, and balances outstanding from and to the capital of the Land Revenue on account of permanent improvements, *ib.* 1717.

Belief that the department has no power, other than the general power of management, to grant money for improvements on the Crown property; certainty that there is no power to grant land for such purposes, *Gorst* 2209-2211. 2214. 2235. 2239 *et seq.*

Explanation of the practice in carrying out new buildings, repairs, drainage, &c., the tenants being charged interest on the outlay, *Gore* 3255-3270. 3295-3304. 3320-3324. 3407-3417 — Preparation of building plans by Mr. Clutton, the works being nearly always done by contract, and being admirably carried out; employment of a clerk of the works, if necessary, his cost being included in the estimate, *Kingscote* 3442-3446. 3450-3452.

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Improvement (Crown Estates)—continued.

Amount of annual advances out of capital, for permanent improvements in each year since 1867; *App.* 217.

Paper supplied by Colonel Kingscote showing the sums advanced from capital for permanent improvements, and the proportion repaid out of income in each year from 1877-78 to 1888-89; *App.* 281, 282.

See also *Drainage. Expenditure.*

Income (Surplus Revenue). Great decrease in the receipts from properties under special management since 1850, caused by the transfer of properties to the Department of Works, *Kingscote* 1594, 1595. 1615-1617—Increase in the receipts from "Rents, Profits of Manors, &c.," from 281,000 *l.* to 409,000 *l.*, due to the purchases made from time to time, *ib.* 1595-1602. 1668 *et seq.*

Submission of a statement of the gross income, gross expenditure, and payments into the Exchequer out of the net income for each year, from the 5th January 1837 to the present time, showing that practically 15,000,000 *l.* has been received from the Crown lands since the Queen ascended the throne, *Culley* 2268-2273. 2280-2287—Opinion that the Crown property is now in as good an income-earning condition as it has ever been during the last fifty years, and that it will improve, *ib.* 2305-2308. 2312.

Statement to the effect that previously to 1852 the expenditure upon royal parks and gardens, and upon the Office of Woods, was deducted from the amount of revenue paid into the Exchequer; this expenditure in 1838 was about 59,000 *l.*, *Sir R. N. F. Kingscote* 3453-3456.

Return showing for each year ended 31st March, from 1850 to 1888, the income of the Commissioners under different heads, *App.* 214.

Total annual payment to the Consolidated Fund in each year since 1850; increase from 200,000 *l.* in that year to 390,000 *l.* in 1888; *App.* 215.

Return showing the income for each of the last fourteen years, *App.* 218.

General abstract showing the sources from which income has been derived in the ten years ended 31st March 1888; *App.* 222. 224. 226.

Statements showing the income in charge of Mr. Culley and Colonel Kingscote, respectively, *App.* 229-237.

Gross income for each year from 5th January 1837 to 31st March 1888; *App.* 297.

Total net payments into the Exchequer out of net income in each year since 1838; increase from 180,000 *l.* for the year 1838 to 390,000 *l.* for the year 1887-88; *App.* 297.

Returns of annual income since 1849 from the several forests and woodlands, *App.* 302-304.

See also *Accounts. Agricultural Lands. Dean Forest. Expenditure. Feu Duties. Foreshore. Ground Rents. Houses. Ireland. Isle of Man. London. Management and Staff. New Forest. Receivers. Rents. Salmon Fishings. Scotland. Surplus Teinds. Timber. Unimprovable Rents. Wales. Windsor Parks and Woods.*

Insurance (Farm Buildings). Insurance of the farm buildings by the tenants, *Kingscote* 1756.

Interest of Moneys. Explanation that the "Interest of Moneys" is derived from investments in Consols, *Kingscote* 1613, 1614—The item "Interest of Moneys" is mainly interest on investments in the funds, the larger receipts under that heading ceasing as soon as the Spring Garden Estates are purchased, *Culley* 2314-2320.

Annual receipts in respect of interest since 1850; *App.* 214.

Ireland. Very small Crown property in land in Ireland, the income arising almost entirely from quit rents extending over an immense acreage and amounting to about 37,000 *l.*; *Culley* 106-117.

Statement that the cost of the separate staff in Ireland was 1,106 *l.* last year, and that the Irish fee farm rents are collected by the Inland Revenue Officers; the gross Irish income amounted last year to 37,441 *l.*, and the total cost of its collection to 2,367 *l.*; *Culley* 273-283.

Abstract of income and expenditure under different heads for the last ten years, *App.* 226. 227.

See also *Quit Rents.*

Isle of Man. Income from the Isle of Man chiefly derived from mines and quarries, there being more than 13,000 acres of hill tops yielding only about 1,020 *l.* and some rents on private

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Isle of Man—continued.

private property amounting to nearly 2,000 *l.*; *Culley* 131-140—The total income amounts to 9,930 *l.*, and the total expenditure 1,122 *l.*; *ib.* 302-306.

Abstract of income and expenditure under different heads for the last ten years, *App.* 226, 227.

K.

Kingscote, Colonel Nigel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is one of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, having succeeded Mr. Gore in 1885, and has charge of all the forest properties, &c., in England which are not dealt with by Mr. Culley, including some mines in Cornwall and the north of England, 876-887. 1072-1074.

Evidence to the effect that the total area of Windsor Great Park, plantations, &c., is 15,175 acres, of which 5,355 acres are maintained as part of the domain of Windsor Castle, 888-911—Statement that the deer, game, fish, herbage, and the Park gates are under the charge of the ranger; and that none of the shooting is let, 912-921. 1061-1067.

Particulars of the various expenses during the last two or three years in connection with Windsor Park and Woods, the total expenditure being 23,237 *l.* per annum, of which 5,221 *l.* is for the salary of the Ranger's staff, and for other expenses incurred by the Ranger; total income of 4,442 *l.*; 922-963. 1033-1041. 1177-1179.

Information as to the amount of land inclosed, the quantity of water, &c., in the Home and Great Parks; impossibility of opening any more ground to the public, so long as the deer are maintained, 964-972. 1180, 1181—Statement that keys for the locked gates in the deer fences are given to applicants living in the vicinity, at a charge of a guinea per annum, and that there is very little restriction to foot passengers through the gates and along the forest roads, 970-987. 1185-1188.

Settlement of the rental of the building property at Ascot Heath by the Crown Surveyor for Berkshire, subject to witness' approval and Treasury sanction; control of the racecourse and the Grand Stand by witness, 988-1008. 1148-1155. 1172-1176—Information as to Bagshot Park, one half of which is woodland and comes under witness's department, 1009-1014.

Evidence to the effect that the total length of gravel road maintained by the Office of Woods in the Home Park, Great Park, and Ascot, and Bagshot is about forty-two miles, and the grass rides sixty-eight miles, and that the public have practically the use of these roads; contribution of the local authorities towards the maintenance of two-and-a-half miles of road, 1015-1020.

Statement that exclusive of the fencing of the plantations in the parks, there are seventy-eight miles of external fences, hedges, &c., to be kept up, and that about 160 buildings, in addition to the culverts, pond-heads, bridges, &c., have to be maintained; opinion consequently, that a comparison between the total receipts and expenditure would not be fair, 1021-1028.

Control by witness of the deputy surveyor, who is appointed and paid by the Treasury; necessity of witness' approval and Treasury sanction for every outlay in Windsor Park, 1029-1032. 1052, 1053—Additional property, in land and houses, belonging to the Crown between Windsor and Eton, together with a sum of about 400 *l.* derived from gravel and clay; collection of the rents by the Crown Receiver at a cost of 4 per cent., 1042-1057.

Statement that the timber sold is limited to the thinnings every year, 1058-1060. 1182-1184—Satisfaction of witness with the present arrangements for the management of the Windsor property, 1068-1071.

Evidence to the effect that the agricultural property of the Crown amounts to about 69,000 acres, of which about 1,178 acres are in hand, and the balance let, the total rental being 82,081 *l.*; gradual decrease in the rental value during the last ten years, 1075-1088. 1132, 1133. 1168-1171—Management of the agricultural property by Mr. Clutton in the southern counties, and by Mr. Gore in the northern counties, under witness' supervision, the Middlesex property being in the hands of Mr. Higgins, who is Receiver General and Paymaster of witness's department; belief that this mode of management has its advantages, as the property is scattered over twenty-three counties, 1089-1116. 1155-1167. 1376-1395.

Impossibility of giving the cost of the collection of the rental of 82,081 *l.*, cost of repairs, &c., without great difficulty, 1117-1121. 1147—Diminution in the annual amount of the donations to churches and schools; limitation, with one exception, of the donations to the Church of England, 1122-1131.

Particulars of the farms included in the 1,178 acres on hand, there being no pasturage on the two farms which occupy the bulk of the land, 1134-1146—Inability of witness at present to explain the large amount of 92,307 *l.* under the heading of "Deductions, Losses, &c.," in the year 1879; 1189-1192.

Statement that, in addition to the agricultural property, there are 450 houses and buildings,

Kingscote. Colonel Nigel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

buildings, let at rents that have been fined down, 302 being in Middlesex and the remainder distributed through twelve different counties; the aggregate amount of these rents in 1887-88 was about 63,000 £; 1193-1214—Information as to ground-rents, there being 5,790 houses erected by lessees, chiefly in Middlesex; total of these rents in 1887-88, about 205,712 £; 1212-1216—Receipt of the Middlesex rents by Mr. Higgins, and of the remainder by either Mr. Clutton or Mr. Gore (with one exception), 1212-1218. 1376-1395.

Gross rental of 16,306 £ in 1887-88 from the mines in the northern counties and Cornwall, and the quarries at Portland, 1219-1222—Distribution of miscellaneous items, amounting to 9,051 £, such as foreshores, sporting rights, &c., over twenty-three counties, the principal being the 3,000 £ paid by the Thames Conservancy in connection with certain parts of the tidal portions of the Thames, 1223-1226.

Possession by the Crown of manors or manorial rights in twelve counties, the principal being the manors of Hampton Court and Richmond, 1228-1230—Particulars of the timber producing property, amounting to about 6,154 acres distributed over ten counties, and producing between 5,000 £ and 6,000 £ per annum; details of the receipts and expenditure, 1231-1249.

Information as to Mr. Gore's remuneration for collecting about 38,000 £ a year, the total emoluments amounting to 1,471 £ 9s. 9d., out of which he defrays the whole of his expenses; calculation of the commission upon the actual receipts only, 1250-1270—Residence of Mr. Gore in London, having an office in Whitehall Place; also, offices at Chester and Darlington, 1271-1276.

Statement that each receiver has now a separate account at his bank for the Crown receipts and that he pays them ultimately, through an accountant in the Office of Woods and Forests, into the Bank of England; receipt and examination of the accounts by witness' department, and the Auditor General, 1276-1300.

Details of Mr. Clutton's remuneration for collecting 80,000 £ a year, his entire emoluments amounting to 5,200 £ in 1888; belief that the decrease in the remuneration in 1886, 1887, and 1888 was due to the farms being assessed at a low rate, and to the Treasury declining to allow commission upon allowances or arrears, 1301-1375—Explanation that Mr. Clutton receives a fee in cases where a working bailiff is appointed to a farm, because he is responsible for the working of the farm and has to visit it, 1304-1332.

Gross annual receipt of 264,000 £ by Mr. Higgins on behalf of witness' department, his remuneration being 1,400 £ a year, out of which he has to provide clerical assistance; limitation of his duties to receiving, no management of property being included, 1376-1395.

[Second Examination.]—Evidence to the effect that practically the whole of the amounts received by Mr. Higgins, and the expenses, come under witness' department, 1396-1401. 1475—Management of the London property by Mr. Cates under witness' superintendence; particulars of Mr. Cate's remuneration since 1880, the charges being entirely under "Surveys and Plans of Crown Property," 1401-1439.

Statement that Mr. Clutton usually advises as to the terms of letting, &c., of the stone, limestone, sand and gravel mines in the midland and southern districts, but that Sir J. Coode has been several times consulted respecting the Crown quarries in Portland, 1440-1442—Entire local management of the under-sea mines by Sir Warrington Smyth, who acts in connection with the mineral properties under Mr. Culley, and is paid a salary of 800 £ per annum, and an allowance for travelling expenses, 1441-1443.

Receipt by Mr. Gore of 4 per cent. on the rents collected by him from property under his management, and 2½ per cent. on those from property under Sir Warrington Smyth's control, 1444-1447—Belief that a local mineral agent in Chopwell Woods receives fifty guineas a year, 1448.

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Absolute prohibition of the receipt of any fees by the surveyors in respect of Crown property without the cognisance of witness' department, 1476-1495—Detailed explanation as to the manner in which the receivers render their accounts, and of the examination of them in the office; submission by witness of a statement showing Mr. Clutton's remittances, and balance in hand for each month in 1886-87 and 1887-88; 1496-1513.

Absence of any check upon the time that the receivers keep the amounts received before paying them into the bank; grounds for the opinion that if the receivers paid the amounts direct to the Receiver General's account, it would only complicate matters,

Report, 1889—*continued*.*Kingscote, Colonel Nigel.* (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued*.

1523-1538—Submission by witness of one of Mr. Clutton's monthly accounts, 1538, 1539.

Sale and enfranchisement of a few plots of land having an accommodation value since witness' appointment, the proceeds having been applied to the purchase of other property and to the improvement of the agricultural properties of the Crown, 1540-1543. 1709-1716—Statement that a large proportion of the property sold represented the property in Spring-gardens sold under the Public Offices Sites Act for Admiralty purposes, 1544-1546—Information as to the amounts expended in purchases since 1885-86, the greater portion having been invested in the purchase of London ground-rents, 1547-1549.

Evidence to the effect that the advances since 1886 in respect of permanent improvements under the Crown Lands Act, 1886, amount in the aggregate to 367,968 *l.*, of which 143,717 *l.* has been repaid; confidence of witness that the account is in a satisfactory state, 1550-1566. 1624-1631—Total of 25,810 *l.* as the present amount of arrears of rent, 90,000 *l.*, chiefly Welsh and Irish arrears, having been written off in 1888-89; 1567-1570.

Institution of the Commission of Woods as a separate body in 1851, the policy of the separation being to place the spending department of the Crown estates under the Commission of Works and the profit-making department under the Commission of Woods and Forests, 1571, 1572—Belief that the expectation that a more economical management would result from the separation has been realised, the outgoings having been diminished from over 50 per cent. of the income in 1850 to about 24 per cent. last year; statements as to income and expenditure handed in, 1573-1590. 1643-1665. 1686-1691.

Estimate that 25 to 30 per cent. would be an ordinary deduction for outgoings on a good estate of considerable extent, 1591-1594. 1643-1648. 1668-1685—Great decrease in the receipts from "Properties under Special Management" since 1850, caused by the transfer of properties to the Department of Works, 1594, 1595. 1515-1617—Increase in the receipts from "Rents, Profits of Manors, &c.," from 281,000 *l.* to 409,000 *l.*, due to the purchases made from time to time, 1595-1602. 1663 *et seq.*

Statement that the increase under the Mines Account is caused by the opening of new mines, and that half the receipts from mines has been paid into the capital account since 1866; 1603-1605—Belief that the "Sales of Produce" refers to the sale of the timber on the agricultural lands, and that the large receipts from 1854 to 1859 are accounted for by the disafforesting of Hainault and Whichwood Forests, 1606-1612. 1649-1654—Explanation that the "Interest of Moneys" is interest upon money invested in Consols, 1613, 1614.

Information as to the reasons for the fluctuation in the amount of the payments under "Salaries, &c., of Receivers," "Incidental Expenses of Receivers," "Mines," "Repairs," and "Donations to Schools, &c.," the total outgoings for the last few years amounting to somewhat under 100,000 *l.* a year upon an income of something under 507,000 *l.* a year, 1620-1642—Explanation that money donations are granted to Church of England establishments, although not authorised by the Act, upon the authority of the law officers of the Crown, 1692-1708.

[Third Examination.]—Submission by witness of a document showing the advances, repayments, and balances outstanding from and to the capital on account of permanent improvements, 1717—Further explanation that the large increase in the receipts from sales of produce in the years 1854 to 1859 was due principally to the clearance of Crown allotments in the forests of Hainault and Whichwood, 1717. 1944-1949.

Correction of some inaccuracies in witness' previous evidence, 1717-1722—Limitation, by the Act, of general leases to thirty-one years and building leases to ninety-nine years; location of most of the land developed for building leases in the south of England, 1723-1735. 1918-1927—Statement that the policy of spending a considerable amount on stocking a farm that comes to hand in a worn-out state is generally successful; considerable value of the stock and crops on the Shrobburgh and Whichwood farms, 1736-1744.

Payment of tithes, invariably, by the tenants, in accordance with Act of 10 Geo. 4, c. 50; opinion, however, that it is better for the landlord to pay them, 1745-1756—Insurance of the farm buildings by the tenants, 1756.

Development of allotments during the last two years wherever there has been a reasonable demand for them, the rent varying from 30 *s.* to 50 *s.*; 1757-1766. 1812, 1813. 1854-1865—Policy of witness to put sufficient cottages under the farmers to meet their requirements, the cottages in the villages being under the Crown; the latter are let to the labourers on the terms that are customary in the district, 1767-1778. 1846-1853.

Inability of the Commissioners to grant land to any other than the Church of England, although they can sell it or lease it, at a proper value, to Dissenters, 1779-1790—Policy

Kingscote, Colonel Nigel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Policy of witness' office to abstain from purchasing agricultural land during the last twenty years; purchase of land in the metropolis and large towns whenever the investment appeared remunerative and there was capital available, the principal purchases of late years being ground-rents, 1791-1811.

Opinion that it would be desirable, if the price of land was better, to sell some of the outlying farms that are expensive to manage; copyholds, fee-farm rents, and small charges are got rid of if possible, 1814-1818. 1905-1917. 1928-1943—Realisation of 10,222 l. during the last four years by the sale of copyholds, including enfranchisements, under witness' department; explanation that the purchase-money goes into a general fund, which is invested in the most lucrative way that can be found, 1819-1826. 1833-1836.

Sale of foreshores restricted to the frontagers, corporations, &c., 1827-1832—Information as to the prices paid for the two estates purchased in London, Mr. Cates having advised the prices, 1837-1845—Opinion that the experiment of letting small holdings of about three acres has been successful where the tenants have not attempted to live entirely upon the proceeds, 1854-1871.

Admission that if a separate profit and loss account of the farms in hand could be completed it would probably show a considerable loss, 1872-1876—Statement that witness holds himself responsible as regards expenditure and as to whether the expenses are to be paid out of income or out of the capital fund, 1877-1890—Information as to the acreage in the various counties of the property under the charge of Mr. Clutton and Mr. Gore; submission by witness of a map showing the distribution of the property, 1892-1905. 1911-1915.

Unwillingness of the tenants on agricultural land to take leases, the re-lettings being mostly on annual agreements, 1918-1927—Absence of any systematic attempt to sell the outlying property by auction; opinion that no one would at the present time put land up for sale by forced auction unless compelled to do it, 1928-1943.

[Fourth Examination.]—Explanatory statement respecting the detailed practice in initiating and carrying out drainage works; due precautions taken on the score of superintendence, 3440, 3441—Employment of a competent foreman on each important drainage work, his cost being included in the estimate, 3440, 3441. 3448, 3449.

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Statement to the effect that previously to 1852 the expenditure upon Royal Parks and Gardens and upon the Office of Woods was deducted from the amount of revenue paid into the Exchequer; this expenditure in 1838 was about 59,000 l.; 3453-3456—Belief that the agricultural land was divided between the receiverships north and south, by a straight line from east to west, 3457.

[Fifth Examination.]—Statement as regards Potter's Hill Farm to the effect that Mr. Hobbis had no real grievance in the matter, 4251—Explanatory statement in reply to, and in correction of, certain complaints by Mr. Hobbis respecting his treatment as tenant of Leafield Farm, 4251-4253.

[Sixth Examination.]—Further explanation in reply to some statements by Mr. Hobbis respecting his treatment in the matter of Potter's Hill Farm, 4567.

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King's Park Farm (Stirling). See *Stirling.*

L.

Land, Purchase of. See *Purchases by the Crown.*

Lascelles, The Hon. Gerald W. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is deputy surveyor for the New Forest and is the responsible agent of the Commissioners in the whole of the forest, 2321-2326—Receipt of the rents by witness, who pays them into his own separate account and remits the balance to the Receiver General; submission of accounts of receipts and payments to the Commissioners monthly, 2327-2332.

Information as to the character of the 64,737 acres in the New Forest over which the Crown has rights; 92,000 acres shown by the perambulation of the forest, including the manors of Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, &c., 2333-2347. 2408 *et seq.*—Absolute control of

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of the Crown over 3,300 acres, and limited ownership of the remaining 62,000 acres, 2348-2352.

Enumeration of the various Acts giving power to the Crown to enclose land for the purpose of growing timber for the Navy; particulars of the various plantations, chiefly of oak, that have been made, 2353-2381. 2431 *et seq.*—Great restriction of the power of the Crown in 1875, the Act prohibiting further inclosures beyond another 16,000 acres, and providing for the maintenance of the ornamental character of the forest; non-exercise to the full extent of the right to inclose the 16,000 acres, 2382-2388. 2396-2400. 2408 *et seq.*

Great clearance of timber in the forest soon after the passing of the Deer Removal Act, 1851; the older wood is chiefly beech, while oak predominates in the younger plantations, 2389-2395—Scarcity at present of ripe timber capable of being realised, the principal part of the yield being the thinnings of the fir plantations, &c., 2401-2407. 2448-2450.

Evidence to the effect that the New Forest is not intended by Parliament to be worked merely for profit, but to be preserved for ornamental purposes, the profit-making portion of it being but a small fraction, 2412-2423. 2443-2447. 2492-2498—Compulsory plantation of large blocks in consequence of the Deer Removal Act, fir being the principal wood planted, 2424-2430.

Statement that the wood of the forest is not now fit for the Navy; belief that in old times the timber was valuable for keels, stems, stern-posts, &c., but never for planking, 2431-2438—Small profit of 1,800 *l.* only from the forest, the income being 10,777 *l.* and the expenditure 8,893 *l.* in 1887-88; non-inclusion of the marl, gravel, and sand-pits in this account, 2439-2442.

Failure of larch in the forest; recommendation that Scotch fir should be planted in order to make a profit, 2451-2453—Conclusion that the Crown has no right to clear and re-plant the ground, but only to thin it so as not to impair its picturesque appearance, 2454-2474.

Power of the Commissioners to let the freehold land at Lyndhurst on building leases; suggestion that they should have the power to grant a small portion of land for sanitary works at Lyndhurst, the sewage arrangements being most defective there, 2475-2491.

Leafield Farm (Whichwood Estate). Examination in detail as to the grounds upon which witness strongly complains of his treatment by the Commissioners of Woods in his late capacity of sub-lessee under Mr. Edelsten, of the Leafield Farm on the Whichwood Estate, *Hobbs* 3697-3705. 3711 *et seq.*

Explanatory statement in reply to, and in correction of, the complaints made by Mr. Hobbs respecting his treatment as tenant of Leafield Farm, *Kingscote* 4251-4253.

Leases. Limitation, by Act, of general leases to thirty-one years and building leases to ninety-nine years; location of most of the land developed for building leases in the south of England, *Kingscote* 1723-1735. 1918-1927—Unwillingness of the tenants on agricultural land to take leases at the present time, the re-lettings being mostly on annual agreement, *ib.* 1918-1927.

Term of twenty-one years for which ordinary repairing leases are granted by the Crown in London; occasional term of forty years where the expenditure is considerable, *Cates* 2684-2686. 2719, 2720—Terms of eighty years in the case of sites for building leases, subject to some exceptions; higher rent commanded by a lease for eighty than by one for forty or fifty years, *ib.* 2687-2693.

Special circumstances by which witness is guided in each case in advising as to the rent to be accepted from lessees; cardinal principle of dealing with the occupying tenant under a repairing lease, *Cates* 2694. 2715. 2718-2720—Numerous instances of surrender of leases, fresh terms and conditions being arranged; facility thereby to improvement of the property, *ib.* 2723-2728.

Legal Expenses. Remuneration of witness, as solicitor to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, by a salary of 1,500 *l.* a year, with an allowance of about 1,270 *l.* for clerks; the charges to lessees are not paid to witness, *Gorst* 2184-2194—Employment of agents by witness in various parts of England, *ib.* 2195, 2196—All agreements, leases, &c., are printed; in the case of letting a cottage an *ad valorem* charge upon the rental would be made, *ib.* 2197-2201.

Information respecting the cost of management and law expenses in connection with the Crown property in Scotland, with special reference to the large annual expenditure on account of law and litigation, *Culley* 4477-4530—Litigation of two cases in Scotland in the last few years, costs having been given in each case against the Crown, and the expenses having been very heavy, *ib.* 4503-4530—Great liability to litigation in connection with feu duties and surplus teinds, *ib.* 4514-4518.

Legal Expenses—continued.

Appointment of witness in 1870 as law agent in Scotland of the Office of Woods and Forests; several other public Departments for which he acts as law agent, *Beith* 4749-4751. 4754-4756—Total of 14,523 *l.* as the net profit of witness in twelve and a-half years, or an average of about 1,100 *l.* a year; statement hereon as to the total amount of his bills, *ib.* 4752-4754. 4763-4772.—Original payment of witness by salary; reasons for the change made in 1875-76; *ib.* 4756-4762.

Net amount of Mr. Beith's bills, as law agent in Scotland, for the years 1876-88; average of 1,147 *l.* per annum, *App.* 207—Statement of expenditure, professional charges, and receipts in connection with the office of solicitor in Scotland for the Department of Woods and Forests, and for other Government Departments, for the period from 1st July 1876 to 31st December 1888; *ib.* 311-313—Abstract of cost of office in connection with the Woods and Forests Department; average annual cost of 1,105 *l.* 8*s.*; *ib.* 313.

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List, George Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness, as chief constable of the counties of Haddington and Berwick, has had under his charge for many years the local enforcement of the fishery laws, 4701-4704.

Information respecting the extensive salmon fishery on the coast let by the Crown to Mr. Johnson for 500 *l.* a year; conclusion that if individual licences were granted, instead of this lease, not nearly so much revenue would be derived, 4705, 4706. 4724-4731—Serious complaints by the local fishermen as to men being brought from other districts to work the fisheries, 4707-4710.

Circumstance of drift nets being prohibited in Berwickshire under the Tweed laws; particulars hereon as to the different nets used on the coast, witness submitting that the Tweed fisheries are being greatly injured by the fixed engines or bag nets now in use, 4711-4724. 4732-4744—Unusually late period up to which the rod season on the Tweed remains open, 4745-4748.

Litigation. See *Legal Expenses.* *Surplus Teinds.*

Local Agents. Statement of the amounts paid annually since 1885 for local agents, bailiffs, &c., in connection with Mr. Gore's receivership, *Kingscote* 1449-1453—Also, in connection with Mr. Clutton's receivership, *ib.* 1454-1457—Explanation that the additional amounts are paid through Mr. Gore and Mr. Clutton, *ib.* 1458-1474.

Information as to the stewards, bailiffs, &c., who are appointed and paid by the Office of Woods and Forests, but are responsible to Mr. Clutton, *R. Clutton* 2567-2578.

London (Crown Property). Management of the London property by Mr. Cates, under witness' superintendence; particulars of Mr. Cates's remuneration since 1880, the charges being entirely under "Surveys and Plans of Crown Property," *Kingscote* 1401-1439.

Large increase in the income from the London property since witness' appointment, *Cates* 2695—Situation within the metropolitan area of all the property dealt with by witness, *ib.* 2731, 2732.

Enumeration of the London estates of the Woods and Forests, with particulars as to the situation and extent of each, and as to the mode in which certain properties were acquired, such as those in Victoria-street, Regent's Park, the Holborn Viaduct, New Oxford-street, Victoria Park, &c., *Cates* 2737-2758. 2775-2778. 2806-2814—Initiative taken by witness in the purchase of many of the properties; instance in the case of the Holborn Viaduct, *ib.* 2755-2757. 2775-2778.

Rental of about 250,000 *l.* received by the Crown Receiver for Middlesex; large increase in some districts when the leases fall in, *Cates* 2759-2762. 2795-2802. 2806-2814—Total of 4,252 houses let on ground-rents, *ib.* 2761—Varying value of the Crown property in different districts; instances in which largely increased rents will be secured in course of time, *ib.* 2795-2802. 2806-2814.

Explanation that as an advocate of leasehold enfranchisement witness would approve of the sale of the London property of the Crown, *Arnold* 4207, 4208. 4247.

See also *Architect and Surveyor.* *Ground-Rents.* *Houses.* *Leases.*

Lyndhurst (Hants). See *New Forest.*

M.

Management and Staff (Office of Woods, &c.). Explanation that when the offices of Woods and Works were united there were three Commissioners, but that since their separation in 1851 there have been only two, *Culley* 5, 6—Division of the work of the Office of Woods, &c., between the two Commissioners by a Treasury Order, the two Departments being kept entirely separate, *ib.* 7-10.

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Particulars respecting the staff and salaries of the London office, some of the officers, such as the Receiver General, the book-keeper, and the registrar, being common to the two Departments; all the officers give the whole of their time, except the Chief Mineral Inspector, *Culley* 24-42.

Information as to the chief officers for English properties under witness' charge; there is also a receiver for Scotland, with a clerical staff, and the separate staff in Ireland is a branch of the office in London, four local agents being occasionally employed for Wales, *Culley* 42-49.

Enumeration of the properties dealt with by witness, the acreage and description being given in each case; inclusion of nearly all the woods and forests, and mines in them, in England, as well as the general land revenues of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and the Islands of Man and Alderney, *Culley* 50-143. 420-426.

Witness, as one of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, having succeeded Mr. Gore in 1885, has charge of all the forest properties, &c., in England, which are not dealt with by Mr. Culley, including some mines in Cornwall and the North of England, *Kingscote* 876-887. 1072-1074.

Management of the agricultural property by Mr. Clutton in the southern counties, and by Mr. Gore in the northern counties, under witness' supervision, the Middlesex property being in the hands of Mr. Higgins, who is Receiver General and Paymaster of witness' Department; belief that this mode of management has its advantages, as the property is scattered over twenty-three counties, *Kingscote* 1089-1116. 1155-1167. 1376-1395.

Institution of the Commission of Woods as a separate body in 1851, the policy of the separation being to place the spending department of the Crown estates under the Commission of Woods and Forests, *Kingscote* 1571, 1572.

Frequent visits of inspection paid by witness to the property under his charge, *Gore* 3217-3219—Management of the property in charge of witness irrespectively of the system of management of that in charge of Mr. Clutton, *ib.* 3435-3439.

Views expressed by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goschen adverse to the system of administration by Commissioners in London, *Arnold* 4199—Opinions of a Select Committee in 1863 as to the excessive expense of central administration in the case of ecclesiastical lands, *ib.* 4199, 4200.

Conclusion as to the inexpediency of the destination made by the Crown Lands Act of 1851 in placing revenue-producing lands under the Office of Woods, and lands not producing revenue (such as the public parks) under the Office of Works, *Arnold* 4199—Statement as to the very large cost of administration by the Office of Woods; prejudicial effect moreover of central administration, *ib.* 4236-4241.

Paper handed in by Mr. Culley explanatory of the policy of the Commissioners in dealing with the land revenues of the Crown, *App.* 314. 315.

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<i>Forest.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Farms in hand.</i>	<i>Income.</i>
<i>Legal Expenses.</i>	<i>London.</i>	<i>New Forest.</i>	<i>Ireland.</i>
<i>Rents.</i>	<i>Scotland.</i>	<i>Outlying Property.</i>	<i>Leases.</i>
			<i>Receivers.</i>

Manors. Possession by the Crown of manors or manorial rights in twelve counties, the principal being the manors of Hampton Court and Richmond, *Kingscote* 1228-1230—Total of about sixty manors uninclosed, *Culley* 3615.

MINES AND MINERALS:

Gross rental of 16,206 L in 1887-88 from the mines in the northern counties and Cornwall, and the quarries at Portland, *Kingscote* 1219-1222—Statement that Mr. Clutton usually advises as to the terms of letting, &c., of the stone, limestone, sand, and gravel mines or quarries in the midland and southern districts, but that Sir J. Coode has been several times consulted respecting the Crown quarries in Portland, *ib.* 1440-1442.

Entire local management of the under-sea mines by Sir Warrington Smyth, who acts in connection with the mineral properties under Mr. Culley, and is paid a salary of 800 l. per annum, and an allowance for travelling expenses, *Kingscote* 1441-1443—Statement that the increase under the "Mines Account" is caused by the opening of new mines, and that half the receipts from mines has been paid into the capital account since 1866; *ib.* 1603-1605.

Enumeration of the duties discharged by witness as adviser to the Woods and Forests in respect of the mineral rights and property of the Crown, inclusive of coal, stone, and slate, gold, &c.; considerable time and labour devoted to a personal inspection of the mines and the mode of working, *Sir W. W. Smyth* 3030-3036. 3048-3057. 3080-3092.

MINES AND MINERALS—continued.

Important series of coal mines worked under the sea in Northumberland and Durham; information as to their extent, condition, and mode of working, *Sir W. W. Smyth* 3042. 3055-3075—Principle of letting the mines upon receipt of a royalty, this varying with the price of the product as being fixed at so much per ton, *ib.* 3044-3047. 3095-3112.

Illustration in the case of the great Laxey mine (Isle of Man), of the labour entailed by a careful inspection, with a view to arranging for the best mode of working, *Sir W. W. Smyth* 3048-3052—Importance of the duty of witness in advising the Commissioners of Woods as to the terms and conditions to be required by leasees; large increase of his work in this direction, *ib.* 3053-3081—Salary of 800*l.* a year received by witness from the Woods and Forests, with an allowance for travelling expenses, *ib.* 3159-3162.

Varying returns from the mineral property under witness, this being in charge of Sir Warrington Smyth, *Gore* 3250-3254.

Rights of the Crown and of mineral licenses under the Crown to dig for minerals, irrespectively of the surface owner; claim of the latter to compensation for any injury to his property, *Culley* 3671-3686—Conclusions adverse to the sale of the mineral rights of the Crown, *ib.* 3687, 3688—Opportunity of the freeholder as to leasing the minerals; several leases granted by the Crown to owners, *ib.* 3689-3693.

Management of the mines in Scotland (there being only two working) by Sir Warrington Smyth, *Culley* 4476.

Annual receipts from the Mines Accounts since 1850; *App.* 214. 216—Return showing the payments in respect of mines in each of the years 1850-67; *ib.* 215.

Particulars of receipts in 1887-88 from profits of mines in Wales, *App.* 258-273—Total receipts for each county, *ib.* 274.

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N.

NEW FOREST:

Statement that the total receipts, arising chiefly from the sale of timber, for the New Forest, amount to 10,777*l.*, and the expenditure for maintenance, general management, and staff to about 8,893*l.*; *Culley* 477-497—Necessity of procuring a sign manual warrant before even the decayed trees in the open forest can be cut down, *ib.* 498-501.

Scarcity of full-grown matured timber, a great fall of timber having taken place soon after the Deer Removal Act of 1853; statement of the amounts realised by the sale of timber in 1854 to 1855 and 1861, the greater part of the money having been expended to make the new plantation, *Culley* 502-513—Deficit during the bad prices of the years 1885 to 1887, the oak timber being too young to sell profitably, and the Scotch fir having fallen very much in price, *ib.* 514-516—Belief that there is very little woodland in the forest capable of carrying oaks of 150 years' growth, the best parts having been planted with oak once or twice in 400 or 500 years, *ib.* 517, 518.

Statement that the perambulation of the New Forest is about 93,000 acres, and that the Crown has forestal rights over 65,000 acres, and planting and cutting rights over 17,670 acres, and owns 2,000 acres of freehold; great alteration in the position of the Crown as regards the forest caused by the Act of 1877, the power of cutting and planting being greatly limited, and the preservation of the picturesque character of the ground provided for, *Culley* 519-549—Explanation that the amount of ground out of which the Crown can make a profit is only 16,000 acres, the rest of the forest being a source of expense, and belonging practically to the public, *ib.* 540-549.

Undisturbed right of the general public over all parts of the New Forest not enclosed; right of certain commoners to pasturages and pannage also, *Culley* 599-621.

Explanation that it is the general practice in a district like the New Forest for the deputy surveyor to pay all outgoings out of accruing rents, the balance being paid into witness' office direct at the end of the month, *Culley* 2106-2115.

Witness, as deputy surveyor for the New Forest, is the responsible agent of the Commissioners in the whole of the forest, *Lascelles* 2321-2326—Receipt of the rents by witness, who pays them into his own separate account, and remits the balance to the Receiver General; submission of accounts of receipts and payments to the Commissioners monthly, *ib.* 2327-2382.

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Penshurst Estate (Lord De L'Isle and Dudley). Abstract of yearly receipts and payments in respect of the Penshurst Estate (about 4,500 acres), from 1871 to 1880, inclusive; percentage of total expenditure to total receipts, *App.* 276.

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Produce (Crown Estate). Explanation that the large increase in the receipts from sales of produce in the years 1854 to 1859 was due principally to the clearance of Crown allotments in the Forests of Hainault and Whichwood, *Kingscote* 1606-1612. 1649-1654. 1717. 1944-1949.

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Purchases by the Crown. Information as to the amounts expended in purchases since 1885-86, the greater portion having been invested in the purchase of London ground rents, *Kingscote* 1547-1549—Policy of witness' office to abstain from purchasing agricultural land during the last twenty years; purchase of land in the metropolis and large towns whenever the investment appeared remunerative and there was capital available, the principal purchase of late years being ground rents, *ib.* 1791-1811—Information as to the prices paid for two estates purchased in London, Mr. Cates having advised the prices, *ib.* 1837-1845.

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Quit Rents (Ireland). Anxiety of witness to sell the Irish quit rents, the price having been reduced to twenty-five years' purchase; explanation that the loss on the quit rent caused by the sale of an estate under Lord Ashbourne's Act, at seventeen or eighteen years' purchase, falls on the landlord, *Culley* 284-291.

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RECEIVERS (CROWN PROPERTY)

Receipt of the Middlesex rents by Mr. Higgins, and of the remainder by either Mr. Clutton or Mr. Gore (with one exception), *Kingscote* 1212-1218. 1376-1395—Information as to Mr. Gore's remuneration for collecting about 38,000 L. a year, the total emoluments amounting to 1,471 L. 9 s. 9 d., out of which he defrays the whole of his expenses; calculation of the commission upon the actual receipts only, *ib.* 1650-1270—Residence of Mr. Gore in London, he having an office in Whitehall-place; also offices at Chester and Darlington, *ib.* 1271-1276.

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RECEIVERS (CROWN PROPERTY)—continued.

Details of Mr. Clutton's remuneration for collecting 80,000 *l.* a year, his entire emoluments amounting to 5,200 *l.* in 1888; belief that the decrease in the remuneration in 1886, 1887, and 1888 was due to the farms being assessed at a lower rate and to the Treasury declining to allow commission upon allowances or arrears, *Kingscote* 1301-1375.

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Receipt by Mr. Gore of 4 per cent. on the rents collected by him from property under his management, and 2½ per cent. on those from property under Sir Warrington Smyth's control, *Kingscote* 1444-1447.

Witness, as Receiver General, has an office in the building where the rest of the work respecting Woods and Forests is conducted, *Higgins* 1950-1952. 1996, 1997—Explanation that the rents of Crown property in London and Middlesex are paid direct to witness, and that he pays all money received daily into the Bank of England; entry by him of all receipts in a cash book, *ib.* 1953-1964. 1993-1995—Payment to the Receivers generally by cheque to witness, Mr. Clutton sometimes paying direct to the Bank of England, *ib.* 1965-1976. 2013-2016.

Statement that all cheques upon the Commissioners' account are drawn by witness on written authority, *Higgins* 1976-1980. 2008-2012—Purely mechanical nature of witness' duties as Receiver General; he is responsible for the collection of the London and Middlesex rents, *ib.* 1993-1995. 1998-2007. 2038-2046—Receipt of 250,388 *l.* by witness in 1888-89 as Receiver for Middlesex, *ib.* 2026-2031. 2038 *et seq.*—Information as to the process by which the money paid to the Receivers reaches the Bank of England, *ib.* 2031-2037.

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During the last thirty years not a sixpence has been lost through the default of a Receiver, *Culley* 2309-2311.

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Poundage of 2½ per cent. received by witness' firm on some of the rents and of 4 per cent. on others, the gross receipts in the year 1888-89 having been 1,471 *l.*; *Gore* 3193-3200—Items or fees received for superintending drainage, carrying out buildings and other matters appertaining to the surveyorship of the property, the total remuneration of the firm being much less than 1,000 *l.* per annum, *ib.* 3196. 3208-3212. 3289-3294. 3407-3411. 3432-3434.

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Repairs. Statement on the subject of public tender not being resorted to, as a rule, for buildings, repairs and other works; execution generally of small repairs by the tenants, *J. H. Clutton* 2860. 2888–2894. 3001–3006.

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SALES (CROWN PROPERTY):

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Opinion that it would be desirable, if the price of land was better, to sell some of the outlying farms that are expensive to manage; copyholds, fee-farm rents, and small charges are got rid of if possible, *Kingscote* 1814–1818. 1905–1917. 1928–1943—Absence of any systematic attempt to sell the out-lying property by auction; opinion that no one would at present put land up for sale by forced auction, unless compelled to do so, *ib.* 1928–1943.

Policy of witness to sell troublesome lands lying at a distance and to invest the proceeds in ground rents in London, *Culley* 2313.

Receipt by the Crown of 226,823 *l.* in 1873–89 from sales of London property; further amount paid to the Crown for the Public Offices, or Spring Gardens site, in half-yearly instalments, *Cates* 2699–2704. 2767–2772—Practice as to valuation and statutory declaration by witness in cases of sales; full value obtained for property sold to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, or Metropolitan Board of Works, *ib.* 2707–2714.

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Strong advocacy of the compulsory sale of the agricultural lands of the Crown; large annual saving thereby, *Arnold* 4200–4241. 4244, 4245—Expediency of purchasers being assisted by gradual payment of the purchase money or by loans from the State on security of the land, *ib.* 4214–4218—Approval of the sale also, locally if possible, of the foreshore and fishing rights of the Crown, *ib.* 4246.

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SALMON FISHERIES (SCOTLAND):

Increase from 54 *l.* in 1856 to 6,004 *l.* in 1888 in the revenue from salmon fishings in Scotland, this being due to the decision in the Gammell case in 1859, that the right of salmon fishing round the coast was in the Crown, *Culley* 4383-4397.—Total of 30,665 *l.* derived from sales of salmon fishings since 1871; explanation hereon as to the policy pursued in selling and the large prices obtained in several instances, *ib.* 4398-4412.—Rights of the Duke of Richmond and many other proprietors to fishings on the coast, *ib.* 4413-4418.

Record of each fishing in the books of the Department as soon as an application is made for its lease or purchase, *Culley* 4419, 4420.—Steps taken in the first instance to arrange, if possible, with the *ex-adversus* proprietor by means of a short lease so as to ascertain the value of the fishing; stipulation as to sub-leases to outsiders who make the highest offers, *ib.* 4420-4424, 4474.

Examination in explanation and justification of the action of witness in the Loch Morar case; excellent price received for the fishing, witness submitting that the sale could not alienate any existing public right, *Culley* 4425-4437, 4442-4450.—Expediency of the present Committee settling certain points that have been raised as to interference with public rights; restriction meanwhile upon further action by witness, *ib.* 4428-4430, 4441.

Long delay in completing an arrangement for the sale of the Crown's rights to proprietors on the River Conon, *Culley* 4437-4440.—Particulars relative to the sales of some rentals of 5 *s.* each paid by proprietors on the River Whitadder, a well-known trout stream; reply to the objection that these sales have enabled the proprietors to prevent public fishing, *ib.* 4450-4473.—Management of the fishings direct from the Office of Woods; local inspection employed in special cases, *ib.* 4474, 4475.

Explanations respecting the fisheries on the coast of Haddington and Berwick, the most extensive one being let to Mr. Johnson, who is not a resident proprietor; statement hereon upon the question of the local fishermen having any ground of complaint as to their non-employment or as to the use of drift nets, *Culley* 4629-4640.

Exceptional circumstances under which some fishings in the parish of Birse, on the River Dee, were leased by the Crown; belief as to some of the public having claimed a right to fish in this water, *Culley* 4641, 4642.—Belief that no complaints were made pending the sale of the Loch Morar and other fishings, *ib.* 4647.

Treatment of the salmon fisheries solely for purposes of revenue; practice to sell when witness considers any fishing has arrived at its full annual value, *Culley* 4678-4680, 4688, 4689.—Improved modes of fishing to which the increased value of the fishings is mainly due, *ib.* 4681-4685.—Value of the Loch Morar fishing chiefly to the local proprietors; sale to them of no other right than taking salmon, *ib.* 4686, 4687.

Probability that in former times the Crown alienated salmon fishings without receiving any consideration for them; full value received in every case since witness has been a Commissioner of Woods, *Culley* 4690-4699.

Witness, as Chief Constable of the counties of Haddington and Berwick, has had under his charge for many years the local enforcement of the fishery laws, *List* 4701-4704.—Information respecting the extensive salmon fishery on the coast let by the Crown to Mr. Johnson for 500 *l.* a year; conclusion that if individual licenses were granted, instead of this lease, not nearly so much revenue would be derived, *ib.* 4705, 4706, 4724-4731.—Serious complaints by the local fishermen as to men being brought from other districts to work the fisheries, *ib.* 4707-4710.

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Stirling. *Surplus Teinds.*

Small Holdings. Opinion that the experiment of letting small holdings of about three acres has been successful where the tenants have not attempted to live entirely upon the proceeds, *Kingscote* 1854-1871.

Smyth, Sir Warrington W., F.R.S. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Enumeration of the duties discharged by witness as adviser to the Woods and Forests in respect of the mineral rights and property of the Crown, inclusive of coal, stone and slate, gold, &c.; considerable time and labour devoted to a personal inspection of the mines and the mode of working, 3030-3036. 3048-3057. 3080-3092.

Explanation respecting the Crown rights in the case of mines in Cornwall which go under the sea; small royalty paid to the Duchy wherever there is a foreshore, 3076-3079—Important series of coal mines worked under the sea in Northumberland and Durham; information as to their extent, condition, and mode of working, 3042. 3055-3075.

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Very small value of the mineral rights of the Crown in Anglesea, 3089—Information as to the Crown quarries in Carnarvonshire and the terms or royalties at which let, 3093-3108—Service rendered in the matter of the quarries and gold mines in North Wales by Mr. Bowen the local agent, 3108-3114.

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Stirling (King's Park Farm). Difficulty as to the sale of the King's Park Farm at Stirling, by reason of the public use of the park for recreation, *Culley* 4374, 4375—Interest of the public in the retention by the Crown of the King's Park, *ib.* 4648-4650.

Sunk Island (York). Very few, if any, cottages at Sunk Island except those built for the farmers, *Gore* 3351-3354—Probability that the site of the chapel on Sunk Island was given by the Crown as a free grant, *ib.* 3375-3380.

Explanation that in the case of the works at Sunk Island witness had charges to the amount of twenty-five guineas against the Commissioners; the works extending over three years, *Gore* 4561-4566.

Surplus Teinds (Scotland). Particulars as to the revenue from surplus teinds, these being the balance of tithes belonging to the Crown after payment of the ministers' stipends; causes of the great variation of annual income from this source, *Culley* 4273-4299. 4308-4330—Information in regard to sales of surplus teinds, and the terms upon which sold; recommendation on the subject by the Commissioners of Woods in 1842; *ib.* 4290-4292. 4314-4321. 4360—Total of 37,252 *l.* received for sales since 1850; *ib.* 4318.

Very large expenditure entailed by the Elgin surplus teinds case, though the sum in question was small; advice of Crown counsel upon which this action was undertaken, *Culley* 4518-4527—Further evidence on the subject of teinds, the nature of the title thereto, and the causes of the great variation in the annual revenue therefrom, *Culley* 4656-4673—Great diminution of late in the sale of teinds; purchases made exclusively by the owners of the land, *ib.* 4674-4677.

Information respecting the litigation with the Earl of Fife in support of the claim of the Crown to surplus teinds amounting to 71 *l.* 12 *s.* a year in the parish of Elgin; total expenses of 1170 *l.* incurred by the Crown, their case having failed, *Beith* 4773-4801—Claim on the part of the Crown to arrears of surplus teinds amounting to 694 *l.* 11 *s.* 7 *d.* and to the teind itself amounting to 71 *l.* 12 *s.* per annum, *Beith* 4774; *App.* 310—Explanation that in the foregoing case the opinion of the law officers of the Crown and of the local agents was in favour of proceedings being taken, the Treasury having been also consulted, *Beith* 4783-4794.

Total revenue in each year since 1850; *App.* 253, 254—Receipts from sales in each year since 1856; *ib.* 256.

Paper handed in by Mr. Beith explanatory of the amount in dispute with the Earl of Fife, and the costs incurred, *App.* 310.

Surveys, Plans, &c. Absolute prohibition of the receipt of any fees by the surveyors in respect of Crown property without the cognisance of witness' department, *Kingscote* 1476-1495.

Payment by the lessee of a fixed fee to Mr. Clutton for approving the plans of the building to be erected, *R. Clutton* 2540-2550—Practice as to making fresh plans for new cottages in different localities, *J. H. Clutton* 2895-2912.

Return showing the annual expenditure for surveys, plans, &c., since 1850; *App.* 215.

See also *Architect and Surveyor. Drainage. Improvements.*

Swine Estate (York). Particulars respecting the cottages on the Swine estate, and the practice as to letting them to farmers, labourers, and others, *Gore* 3328-3345.

T.

Teinds (Scotland). See *Surplus Teinds.*

Thomas, Arnold. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness resides at Newnham, near the Forest of Dean, and is a magistrate for the county; he is chairman of the Forest of Dean School Board, and represents also the galees of coal mines in the Forest, 3870-3877.

Exception taken to a statement by Mr. Culley as to the galees having given no support whatever to Sir Henry Loch's Bill of 1884; explanation that the galees approved generally of the provisions in the Bill as to compensation, and considered that otherwise the Bill might, by some alteration, be made advantageous to all parties interested, 3878-3889. 3904-3906—Belief that the Bill was abandoned through the opposition of the free miners; objection by them mainly on account of the inadequate compensation offered for buying them out, 3886. 3893-3899.

Evidence strongly in favour of a power of amalgamation by owners of different galees with

Thomas Arnold. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

with a view to joint working and pumping for developing the deep seams of coal; approval of the amalgamation of four gales already effected by the Crown, 3888-3903. 3947, 3948—Expediency of the gales being relieved of the payment of arbitrary way-leaves concurrently with a power of consolidation of gales, 3891, 3892. 3921-3930 — Conclusion as to the free miners and the maintenance of their rights being no obstacle to the amalgamation of gales, 3893-3898. 3902, 3903. 3947.

Want of protection, by means of arbitration, as to the terms upon which amalgamation and joint working may be carried out; this was not afforded by the Bill of 1884; 3904-3906—Comment upon the custom whereby when mines are not worked the gales pay half the dead rent to the Crown at the end of the five years or forfeit the whole of the gale, 3907-3920. 3939-3941—Undue price charged for such trees as are required for tip-room, 3931-3938—Preference on the whole for a lease or gale of twenty-one years rather than sixty-three years, 3941-3947.

Evidence in explanation and support of complaint as to the unreasonably high prices charged by the Commissioners for land in Dean Forest for the erection of Board Schools; much lower price at which sites have been obtained from private owners, 3949-4009—Statement on the subject of free grants of sites of schools by the Crown and of contributions in aid of the school buildings, 3992-4019.

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Annual receipts since 1850 from sales of produce, *App.* 214—Statement of the receipts from timber produced on estates in charge of Colonel Kingscote, *ib.* 230-237.

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Tithes. Payment of tithes invariably by the tenants in accordance with Act of 10 Geo. 4, c. 50.; opinion, however, that it is better for the landlord to pay them, *Kingscote* 1745-1755; *Gore* 3381-3387.

Annual expenditure since 1850 in redemption of tithes, &c., *App.* 217.

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Transfer of Land. Evidence as to the increased facilities and reduced expense which should be effected in the transfer of land, in connection with the proposed sale of Crown lands, *Arnold* 4212. 4220-4235.

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Unimprovable Rents. Total receipts in each year since 1850; *App.* 216—Particulars of receipts in 1887-88 in respect of unimprovable rents in Wales, *App.* 258-273.

Statement explanatory of the policy of the Commissioners in selling Crown charges on the property of private individuals, such as tithes and unimprovable rents; aggregate of 439,720 £ thus received, *App.* 314.

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Summary of receipts and payments in the year 1888 in respect of the Crown property in Wales, *Culley* 3460-3464—Statement to the effect that the Crown is still Lord of the Manor of some 85,000 acres of uninclosed waste land in Wales, and possesses the minerals under some 230,000 acres in addition, these rights having been reserved to the Crown whenever waste has been enclosed, *ib.* 3492-3509. 3517-3531.

Employment of Mr. Bowen, as surveyor, in connection with surface or manorial rights; charge of the Receiver for Wales over these rights, *Culley* 3532-3534—Explanation as to the Crown having never planted in Wales, *ib.* 3695-3696.

Abstract of income and expenditure under different heads for the last ten years, *App.* 224, 225.

Particulars of revenue, with rent received in the year 1887-88, showing in each case the name of the tenant, character of the holding, area, and term of lease, *App.* 258-273—Summary of receipts for each county in 1887-88; *ib.* 274.

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Wales—continued.

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Waste Lands (Royal Forests). Explanation that the waste land in Dean Forest, High Meadow Woods, and the New Forest is pastured in common by the surrounding inhabitants, and that the only pecuniary interest of the Crown in it is the ownership of the minerals, and the right to sell the gravel; opinion that the Office of Woods ought to have the power to grant a small portion for outfall sewage works without getting a special Act, *Culley* 572-590.

Sale of nearly all the allotments secured to the Crown when inclosures have taken place; total of 85,535 *l.* obtained from this source since 1850; *Culley* 3602-3612 —Explanation that the Crown does not possess the pasturage over the unenclosed waste land, *ib.* 3613-3615.

See also *Dean Forest. Encroachments from Wales. Wales.*

Whichwood Estate. See *Leaffield Farm. Potter's Hill Farm.*

Windsor Parks and Woods. Evidence to the effect that the total area of Windsor Great Park, plantations, &c., is 15,175 acres, of which 5,355 acres are maintained as part of the domain of Windsor Castle, *Kingscote* 888-911 —Statement that the deer, game, fish, herbage, and the park gates are under the charge of the Ranger, and that none of the shooting is let, *ib.* 912-921. 1061-1067.

Particulars of the various expenses during the last two or three years in connection with Windsor Park and Woods, the total expenditure being 23,237 *l.* per annum, of which 5,221 *l.* is for the salary of the Ranger's staff and for other expenses incurred by the Ranger; total income of 4,442 *l.*; *Kingscote* 922-963. 1033-1041. 1177-1179.

Information as to the amount of land inclosed, the quantity of water, &c., in the Home and Great Parks; impossibility of opening any more ground to the public so long as the deer are maintained, *Kingscote* 964-972. 1180, 1181 —Statement that keys for the locked gates in the deer fences are given to applicants living in the vicinity, at a charge of a guinea per annum, and that there is very little restriction to foot passengers through the gates and along the forest roads, *ib.* 970-987. 1185-1188.

Explanation that the total length of gravel road maintained by the Office of Woods in the Home Park, Great Park, and Ascot and Bagshot is about forty-two miles, the grass rides sixty-eight miles, and that the public have practically the use of these roads; contribution of the local authorities towards the maintenance of two and a-half miles of road, *Kingscote* 1015-1020.

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Statement that the timber sold is limited to the thinnings every year, *Kingscote* 1058-1060. 1182-1184 —Satisfaction of witness with the present arrangements for the management of the Windsor properties, *ib.* 1068-1071.

Annual expenditure since 1850 in respect of the Royal forests and woodlands, *App.* 215.

Names, duties, and remuneration of the several officers employed in connection with the forests, parks, and woods, *App.* 243-246.

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Woolmer Estate (Hants). Return showing the receipts and expenditure, together with the surplus or deficiency, in each year from 1st April 1849 to 31st March 1888; *App.* 304.

R E P O R T
FROM THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON
WORKMEN (WOOLWICH ARSENAL);
TOGETHER WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,
AND APPENDIX.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
18 June 1889.*

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WORKMEN (WOOLWICH ARSENAL).

Ordered,—[*Wednesday, 20th March 1889*]:—THAT a Select Committee of Seven Members, Four to be nominated by the House, and Three by the Committee of Selection, be appointed to inquire into and report on the circumstances under which workmen entered in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and other Government Establishments, between the 17th day of December 1861, and the 4th day of June 1870, have hitherto been refused the benefit of “The Superannuation Act, 1859,” and “The Superannuation Amendment Act, 1873,” and subsequent Amendment Acts, and particularly whether it was in the year 1870 or later that they were for the first time informed that a War Office Circular of the 17th day of December 1861 had assumed to suspend “The Superannuation Act, 1859,” so far as these men were concerned, and as to whether they are or ought to be within the benefits of the said Act of 1873.

THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Committee nominated,—[*Friday, 12th April 1889*]:—of—

Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.	} Nominated by the House. [<i>Friday, 12th April 1889.</i>]
Mr. Walter James.	
Colonel Nolan.	
Mr. John Talbot.	

The following Members are added to the Select Committee on Workmen (Woolwich Arsenal):—

Sir Joseph Bailey.	} Added by the Committee of Selection. [<i>Tuesday, 30th April 1889.</i>]
Mr. Fenwick.	
Mr. Wiggin.	

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R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and report on the circumstances under which WORKMEN entered in the ROYAL ARSENAL, WOOLWICH, and other GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS, between the 17th day of December 1861, and the 4th day of June 1870, have hitherto been refused the benefit of "The Superannuation Act, 1859," and "The Superannuation Amendment Act, 1873," and subsequent Amendment Acts, and particularly whether it was in the year 1870 or later that they were for the first time informed that a War Office Circular of the 17th day of December 1861 had assumed to suspend "The Superannuation Act, 1859," so far as these men were concerned, and as to whether they are or ought to be within the benefits of the said Act of 1873;—HAVE agreed to the following REPORT:—

THE Reference to the Committee involves four points:

(1.) An inquiry into the circumstances under which workmen, entered in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and other Government establishments, between the 17th day of December 1861, and the 4th day of June 1870, have hitherto been refused the benefit of the Superannuation Act, 1859, and the Superannuation Amendment Act, 1873, and subsequent Amendment Acts.

(2.) Whether it was in the year 1870, or later, that they were first informed that a War Office Circular of the 17th day of December 1861, had assumed to suspend the Superannuation Act, 1859, so far as these men were concerned.

(3.) Whether they are, or,

(4.) Ought to be within the benefits of the said Act of 1873.

Lapse of time has much increased the difficulty of the investigation. Some of the events to which it is necessary to refer, took place between 1859 and 1861, nearly 30 years ago. Almost all the people in authority at that time are dead, the memory of the survivors who have been examined is necessarily imperfect, and it is by the merest accident that important documentary evidence has been preserved.

Up to the year 1857 persons in the Civil Service of the State received pensions or retiring allowances provided wholly or in part by an abatement made from their salaries (4, 5 Wm. 4, c. 24). This abatement was done away with in the year 1857 (20, 21 Vict. c. 37); and two years afterwards there was passed the Superannuation Act of 1859, placing the Superannuation of Civil Servants on a new footing. This measure, after reciting the Acts above referred to, enacts (*inter alia*): "(Section 2.) The Superannuation Allowance to be granted after the commencement of this Act to persons who shall have served in an established capacity in the permanent Civil Service of the State, whether their remuneration be computed by 'day pay, weekly wages, or annual salary,

and for whom provision shall not otherwise have been made by Act of Parliament, or who may not be specially excepted by the authority of Parliament, shall be as follows: (that is to say) 'to any person who shall have served 10 years, an annual allowance of 10-60ths of the annual salary and emoluments of his office;' for 11 years, 11-60ths, and a further addition of 1-60th for every year of service, until the completion of 40 years of service, when the maximum allowance of 40-60ths may be granted."

"If any question shall arise as to the claim of any person or class of persons for superannuation, it shall be referred to the Commissioners of the Treasury, whose decision shall be final."

"(Section 17.) No person hereafter to be appointed shall be deemed to have served in the permanent Civil Service of the State, unless such person holds his appointment directly from the Crown, or has been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners; nor shall any person already appointed be held to have served in the permanent Civil Service as aforesaid, unless such person belong to a class which is already entitled to Superannuation Allowance, or to a class in which if he had been appointed thereto subsequently to the passing of this Act, he would, as holding his appointment directly from the Crown, or having been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate have become entitled to such allowance."

It will be observed that the Act, so far as persons admitted to the Civil Service after 1859 are concerned, deals only with those holding office direct from the Crown [with whom this inquiry is not concerned], or admitted with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners. And that in case of dispute the decision of the Treasury is final.

The artisans of the War Office Departments, previously to 1859, had never been entitled to superannuation under any Act of Parliament, nor had deductions ever been made from their pay for that purpose; but all persons in this class, who, on account of age and infirmity, retired from the Service, were entitled under the Ordnance Regulations to a pension amounting after 15 years' service to 10-40ths, this rate gradually increasing until after 50 years of service it reached the maximum of 26-40ths. This amount of pension, though it took somewhat longer to earn, did not differ much in amount from that prescribed by the Superannuation Act, 1859. Ordinary labourers were entitled to a smaller pension; 10 l. a-year after 20 years' service; 15 l. if the service amounted to 35 years.

Status of artisans
before 1859.
Q. 301, &c.

War Office Memo-
randum, 13 March
1871.

Q. 268-273.
Mr. Anderson's letter,
December 1859.

Although the artisans were thus entitled to pension, it had become necessary in 1859 to pay them what the War Office considered to be the full market rate of wages.

Mr. (afterwards Sir John) Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Gun Factories, at the close of the year, in answer to War Office instructions dated 5th December 1859, wrote as follows:

"The tie between the Government and the greater number of workmen, who are taken on for employment, is a very slight one indeed as compared with what it was when I first came into the Arsenal in 1842. At that time the wages of artificers was one uniform dead level of 24 s. 6 d. per week, and the work performed on the average was worth little more than half that amount. The men considered themselves as fixtures, they were seldom or never removed, except in superannuation, and when they worked overtime there was no extra pay. Now (1859) it is entirely changed; *to get good workmen we are paying the full London price.* We neither give nor take a quarter of an hour, and all overtime is paid for at the rate of one-and-a-half; an hour counts as an hour and a-half. We are constantly taking men out of the crowd, who surround the gates daily, and as regularly paying away those who are found to be inferior or slow workmen . . . With the view to induce some of the best men to remain, *I have used as an argument* the constancy of employment, the payment for holidays, *and the superannuation* after long service; but nothing less than another halfpenny an hour would answer the purpose.

Q. 476, 560, 582, 621.

Some of the men appear to have discussed amongst themselves the Superannuation Act, and speculated on its bearing on their own interests; but none of their

their superiors seem to have given them the slightest intimation that their condition as to pension was altered.

Colonel Campbell, Superintendent of the Royal Gun Factories, writes in 1870 to the War Office of the events between 1859 and 1861 :

Col. Campbell's letter
23 Nov. 1870.
Q. 201.

"It is clear that the Superannuation Act of 1859 was not made known to the men of this department."

Colonel Campbell was not employed at the Arsenal till 1863; but his information in 1870 is at least as good as anything which we can now obtain.

Their superiors continued to hold out to the men the prospect of Superannuation as a reason for inducing them to take service under the State; Mr. Anderson, speaking on 17th March 1860, on the occasion of a gentleman retiring with a pension, said :

Q. 180.
Mr. Anderson's Speech,
17 March 1860.

"One great advantage of being connected with a Government Establishment was the certainty that anyone who conducted himself with propriety might look forward to a comfortable superannuation."

The claims of the workmen up to 17th December 1861 have been already conceded. The foregoing statement is, however, necessary, in order that the case of the men entering after 1861 may be understood.

No action with regard to the future status of the workmen seems to have been taken until the later months of 1860, when a correspondence took place between the War Office, the Treasury, and the Admiralty, the upshot of which will be evident from the following extract of a letter from the Treasury to the War Office, dated 7th January 1861 : "I am directed by Mr. Secretary Herbert to acquaint you that in some establishments under the Admiralty there are a class of artificers, shipwrights, riggers, &c., who work in classes at fixed wages, often below the market value at the time in private yards, and whose permanent connection is alike beneficial to the State, by enabling it to secure and retain the services of a trained and efficient body of workmen, in case of emergency or war; and to the men, by securing their steady employment during periods of peace or depression in their trades, with a provision in case of incapacity from old age or illness. Mr. Herbert is desirous of learning whether any operatives are employed in your departments under such conditions."

Treasury Letter,
7 January 1861.

This letter was communicated to the heads of the various departments, and replies were received as follows : The superintendents of the Small Arms Factory, Enfield, and the Royal Gun Factory answered, that foremen and mechanics in those departments received the full market value for their services.

January and
February, 1861.
Q. 242.

The superintendent of the Laboratory replied to the same effect, but added that in his opinion foremen ought to be entitled to pension. The War Office wrote back, 22nd January 1861 : "I am directed by the Secretary of State for War in regard to the last paragraph of your letter, to acquaint you that in order to establish the claim of the foremen, who have entered the service since 19th April 1859, to the allowance granted under the Superannuation Act, it will be necessary that the appointment of these men should be of a permanent character, and approved by the Secretary of State, and as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have made a condition that men in Government employ receiving wages fully equal to the market rate paid in private establishments should not, as a rule, be admitted to the prospective advantages of the Superannuation Act, it will be requisite before these men are admitted to the establishment that their number and precise rate of wages should be stated, and the relative value of their wages determined in reference to the remuneration which they would obtain from private employers."

18 January 1861.

22 January 1861.
Q. 251.

Q. 251.

To this Captain Boxer, the Superintendent of the Laboratory, replied (13th February 1861) that the wages of the foremen in his Department were regulated by the market rate. And the War Office thereupon communicated to him the final decision of the Treasury, that it was not expedient to make any exception in favour of the foremen.

Captain Boxer's
letter, 13 February
1861.

War Office letter,
19 February 1861.
Q. 251.

Q. 254.

In the Carriage Department, Colonel Tulloch reported that his men were paid at a lower rate than in the other Departments [the work in the Carriage Department not being then of so special a character].

A long correspondence ensued. It ended in the War Office instructing Colonel Tulloch that he must pay his men the full market rate.

Q. 11, 12, 181.

Further time was again taken for consideration, and on the 29th of August 1861, the following Circular was addressed by the War Office to the heads of the various departments :

War Office Circular
709, 29 August 1861.

War Office Circular 709. 29 August 1861.

(To the Officers in charge of Departments.)

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir G. C. Lewis to transmit, for your information and guidance, the enclosed rules in regard to the superannuation of artificers, labourers, and others, who are in receipt of daily or weekly wages, and who have entered the service since the passing of the Superannuation Act of 19th April 1859. And as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury are desirous of being furnished with lists of the individuals or class of persons who will be eligible under these regulations, I am to request that you will transmit a return thereof at the earliest opportunity.

(signed) B. Hawes.

ENCLOSED RULES.

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had under their consideration the regulations which should be adopted to give effect to the Superannuation Act of 19th April 1859 in regard to the allowances to be issued to such artificers, labourers, and others in receipt of wages, as have been appointed since the date of the Act in question, and having further considered the proper manner of applying the provisions of the Act with reference to the nature of the remuneration given, either by means of total compensation for service in the grant of a market rate of wages, or by a rate inferior thereto, which in course of years is made up by steady employment, and the prospect of superannuation, have determined—

(1.) That no persons are entitled to superannuation who are in receipt of the full market rate of wages.

(2.) That persons receiving less than the full market rate of wages may be admitted to the service in an established capacity and become entitled to superannuation on the following terms:—

(Rule 3, dealing with the age of entry, does not bear upon the present inquiry).

(4.) The 17th section of the Act requires that all persons not appointed directly by the Crown, shall, before appointment, pass a satisfactory examination before the Civil Service Commissioners, and receive a certificate of competency. The service of such person will reckon towards superannuation from the date of certificate, or from the date, when a subsequent one, of the commencement of their duties.

[Rules 5 and 6, dealing with the subjects of examination, and the special case of foreigners employed in the Colonies, need not be quoted.]

War Office Circular
of 17 Dec. 1861.
Q. 53.

The Circular of August was followed by a second explanatory Circular, dated 17th December 1861 (No. 729), by which the age for admission to the service is altered; it then proceeds:—

The rate of wages paid at a station, at which the men are found willing to engage themselves for employment, must be taken to be "full market rate," it being optional with the men to accept or refuse such wages. *Should there, however, be any men at your station engaged since the passing of the Act (19th April 1859), who have really entered the Department on a clear understanding, or with a well-grounded expectation, that they would, if they conducted themselves well, and remained in the employment of the Department, receive future superannuation,* Sir G. C. Lewis will (on receiving the full particulars of each case) consider whether such cases should be transmitted for the special consideration and decision of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

(signed) B. Hawes.

Remarks on the
Circulars.
Q. 182.

It will be observed that by the letter of 19th February 1861, the heads of Departments had been instructed to pay their men at "full market rate"; and that

that by the Circular 709, men in receipt of full market rate were excluded from prospect of superannuation.

This Circular is mentioned in the reference to your Committee as one "which assumes to suspend the Superannuation Act, 1859;" this is not an accurate description, as the proviso at the end of the second section of that Act leaves all questions, as to the class of persons to receive superannuation allowances, entirely at the discretion of the Treasury. Q. 182.

If the definition of "full market value," contained in Circular 729, namely, "That at which men are found willing to engage themselves for employment" is to be adopted, it should at least, for the purpose of the present inquiry, be qualified by the addition,— Q. 164.

That the daily wage so accepted is known by the men to be their total remuneration, without any prospect of the future advantage of superannuation allowance.

In a department continually engaging and discharging artizans, where men would not readily work at a daily wage less than that offered by private firms, and where the exigencies of the Service demand the employment of varying numbers at different times, the decision to pay "full market rate," and incur no future liability for superannuation, will probably be considered a wise one. Q. 163.

It is obvious that to pay "full market rate," and, in addition, to give superannuation allowance, would place the Government factories at considerable disadvantage. Q. 141.

Whether the men were paid "full market rate" is scarcely possible now to determine, the market rate constantly varying with the trade necessities of the time, and the capabilities of the individual workmen.

Taking the men all round, the day-rate may have been rather less than that given by private firms; but the day-rate did not accurately represent the earnings of the men, 76 per cent. of them being employed on piece-work, at which they could earn in a day pay equal to a day and a quarter, or a day and a third. Q. 846.
Q. 878.
Q. 879.

Doubts have been expressed whether these Circulars were received by the various Departments in 1861.

The Circulars have been produced, on each of them appears a memorandum, "Ordered for circulation," "29th August 1861," "and 31st December 1861." respectively. Doubts if Circulars were ever published.
Q. 28.
Q. 184.
Q. 193.

At Waltham Abbey they are bound into a book of Circulars, and are inserted in their proper place; which is fairly good evidence that they were received there at the proper date. Q. 194.

In the books of two other Departments, however, the Circulars are omitted, and have been pasted in afterwards; in one instance this was done as late as the year 1873. Q. 779.

Another reason given for doubting whether the Circulars were sent to all the Departments is that the lists of names, ordered by Circular 709 to be sent to the Treasury, were, as a matter of fact, never so sent. The explanation is that the whole of the men were then in receipt of the full market rate of wages; and, in the opinion of the heads of Departments, there were none who would be entitled to superannuation. Q. 175.

On the whole, it is likely that the Circulars were duly issued from the War Office, and received by the heads of Departments; had the heads of Departments published them in turn to the men, the necessity for the present inquiry would in all probability never have arisen.

It is admitted that if the present claimants were misled by the heads of their Departments as to the terms of their engagements, and if substantial loss has been entailed on them in consequence, it might be a reason for granting them special relief. Q. 182.

Sir A. Haliburton gives as his opinion, "That the heads of Departments should 197. a 4

should have made the Circulars thoroughly well known," and adds, "it is quite clear they did not do so."

Q. 202.

Colonel Milward writes to the War Office, July 1870, "I cannot trace that any Circular was issued." He thinks, however, that the circumstances were understood, and then adds, "no application has been made, as I am careful not to make any inquiry, as, if I did so, I have no doubt numerous claims would arise."

Thus it has been repeatedly admitted on behalf of the War Office that the Departments did not issue the Circulars to the men, nor (except in one Department) make known the fact that artificers engaged in future would not be entitled to superannuation.

Q. 198.

It is asserted that the Carriage Department did announce to the men the stoppage of superannuation; and it is urged on behalf of the War Office that from these workmen all the artificers at Woolwich must have learned the truth.

It is necessary, therefore, to inquire how far and when the change of arrangements was known in the Carriage Department.

Q. 386.

Q. 401, 402.

Mr. Lock, a messenger in the Carriage Office, was told to make known to the men the change of arrangements in 1862, and during that year he did tell some of them that they would not be entitled to superannuation; he adds that he did not tell all; "very few, to his recollection."

Q. 694.

Q. 679.

Q. 1178.

Q. 697.

In this year, 1862, a plan was, for the first time, adopted of making the artificers on entry sign a book of regulations. The book then printed contained no information as to the stoppage of superannuation. In several of these books there is a manuscript marginal note in very small writing, that the men are to be informed that they have no claim to superannuation. This entry is in the handwriting of Mr. John Ball, once a writer in the Carriage Department. He entered the Service in 1864, and left in 1866. On one of these books is a memorandum, "Revised 20th May 1864, which makes it probable that this instruction was issued on 20th May 1864, and it is certain that the entry must have been made before the end of 1866." This fixes the date after which workmen in the Carriage Department should have been aware that they would not receive superannuation. It was a very imperfect way of giving the information, and was so carelessly carried out, that it is not possible to find affirmatively that the workmen were affected with notice; one regulation book was produced, which was in use as late as 1869, in which the notice as to superannuation does not appear.

Q. 784.

Since the year 1873 each workman on entry has been supplied with a book of regulations, in which the rule as to superannuations is clearly printed.

The Weaver Correspondence.

The first claim for superannuation made by an artizan engaged after 1859 was that of George Weaver; he was discharged from the Royal Gun Factories on the 27th May 1870, and applied for his pension on the 14th of June following.

Q. 596 et seq.

Q. 612.

In making his claim he alludes to the Circular of 1861. This is relied on by the War Office as tending to prove that the men were aware of the Circular. The letter was drafted for Weaver by a friend, Mr. H. Ronald, a writer in the office of the Royal Gun Factory: Mr. Ronald had come across the Circular in the course of his official duties; thinking his interests affected by the reference to superannuation, he took a copy, which he had shown to a few other persons interested in the matter.

Colonel Campbell's letter, 8 July 1870.

Colonel Campbell, then Superintendent of the Royal Gun Factories, urged strongly the favourable consideration of the case.

He wrote, on 8th July 1870, to Lord Northbrook, stating, that "the men between 1859 and 1861 entered the Service with the distinct impression that they would be entitled to superannuation; there is a certain speciality about the work of the foremen, and every year that they remain in a Government establishment performing a particular duty, they become, in a corresponding degree, unfitted for the ordinary trade of the country, and are consequently less able to compete with

with their fellow workmen if thrown again upon the market." To this, on the 19th of July, Mr. Secretary Cardwell replied, that the provisions of the Superannuation Act, 1859 (sect. 17) did not admit of retired allowances being granted to men who entered the service subsequently to its date, and who were not in possession of the certificate of the Civil Service Commissioners. The application was therefore at the time refused, though a pension was afterward granted to him under subsequent legislation.

Mr. Secretary Cardwell's letter, 19 July 1870.

War Office Letter (C. Talbot) to Weaver, 19 July 1870.

On the 19th August 1870, the following Circular was posted on the Notice Boards of the Royal Gun Factories, Woolwich :—

War Office Letter (R. Thompson) to Weaver, 4 Feb. 1874.

"The Secretary of State for War has decided that workmen who entered the Service subsequently to the passing of the Superannuation Act of 1859, without certificates from the Civil Service Commissioners, are not entitled to the benefits of that Act.

"(signed) F. A. Campbell."

On the 1st September 1870, the men who had entered between 1859 and 1870 held a meeting, and addressed to their superiors a memorial, praying for a re-consideration of the decision of the 19th of August.

Artificer's meeting, 1 September 1870.

In this memorial, and in similar papers on behalf of various individuals, the exact words of the Circular of the 17th December 1861 are quoted.

The Circulars of 1861 must therefore have become a matter of common knowledge before the date 1st September 1870.

The discovery that it was impossible to grant superannuation to men entering (without certificates) after 1859, under the Act of that year, led to further legislation.

A Bill was introduced by Mr. Secretary Cardwell, entitled the War Office Pensions Bill, 1872; it recited the Act of 1859, and added that certain artificers, &c., *in ignorance of that enactment*, entered the permanent Civil Service of the War Department between the passing of the said Act and 17th December 1861, without having obtained a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners.

War Office Pensions Bill, 1872.

It then proposed to revive on their behalf the old scale of War Office Pensions.

Objections were taken to this course, and the Bill was withdrawn.

The following year there was passed the Superannuation Act Amendment Act, 1873.

Superannuation Act Amendment Act, 1873, as amended by the Amendment Act, 1884.

This Act is a general measure, covering other Departments besides the War Office. It is to the following effect (the Act of 1859 is recited, and then) :—

"Whereas it appears that in several Public Departments persons have been appointed since 1859 to established situations, but that, *through inadvertence on the part of the heads of such Departments*; and without any default on the part of the persons so appointed, no steps were taken before their appointment to procure for them certificates from the Civil Service Commissioners;

"And whereas *it is unjust that persons so appointed should be deprived of the superannuation allowances which they were led to expect* at the time when they entered the Civil Service, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may if they think fit . . . with the concurrence of the Civil Service Commissioners, and on application being made to them for that purpose by the head of any Public Department, declare that [the persons indicated] shall be in the same position with regard to superannuation allowance as they would have been if admitted into the Service by a Commissioner's certificate."

[Under the Act of 1873 action had to be taken before a certain date; this has been done away with by the Amending Act of 1884.]

During the debate 1873, exception was taken by economists to the wide scope of the measure, and the following sub-section was thereupon inserted :—

Debate 1873, Hansard, Vol. 215, Column 1700.

"The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall cause to be laid before Parliament a return showing the names of all persons with respect to whom any order has been issued in pursuance with this section," &c.

This return was published on the 4th of March 1874; it schedules, amongst
197. b Return of 1874.

amongst others, artisans entering the service of the War Department between the passing of the Act of 1859 and 31st December 1861.

With this the men who have entered since 1861 were discontented, and commenced the agitation which has resulted in the present inquiry.

SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

(1.) The foregoing history is the substance of the inquiry by the Committee into the circumstances under which workmen entering the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and other Government establishments, between the 17th day of December 1861 and the 4th day of June 1870, have hitherto been refused the benefit of the Superannuation Act, 1859, and the Amending Act of 1873, and subsequent Acts.

(2.) No official notice to the men of War Office Circular of the 17th December 1861 seems ever to have been given. Its existence, however, was undoubtedly known to the artisans not later than 1870 [possibly through the copy taken by Mr. Ronald], and was quoted in their memorial of that date. The important part of the Circular, namely, the abolition of the prospect of superannuation in the case of artisans receiving "the full market rate" of wages, was first officially communicated to the entire Arsenal by notice dated 19th August 1870.

(3.) Any report made by this Committee on the third point referred to them, namely, whether these men are within the benefits of the Act of 1873, must necessarily be inferior in authority to a judgment of the courts, or the opinion of the law officers; and the following remarks are made with diffidence, and subject to the observations above: The advantages of the Superannuation Act of 1859, so far as persons entering the service after the passing of the Act, and not holding office directly from the Crown, are concerned, are limited to persons serving in an established capacity in the permanent Civil Service, who have been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners. The artisans entering the Service since December 1861 have not been admitted by certificate; they are, therefore, not entitled to the benefits of the Act of 1859, unless they have become so entitled as the effect of subsequent legislation.

The amending Act of 1873 has two limitations: first, it is limited to persons on the establishment of the Civil Service who, *through inadvertence on the part of heads of Departments*, have failed to procure certificates.

The War Office were doubtless liable to the imputation of inadvertence during the years 1859, 1860, and 1861. But in the latter end of 1861 they had finally decided that workmen should be engaged at "full market rate," and not be entitled to superannuation.

This decision may have been right or it may have been wrong, but it was the distinct outcome of a settled policy; therefore, the workmen who entered subsequently to 17th December 1861 cannot come within the scope of a measure which is limited to cases of inadvertence on the part of heads of departments.

The second limitation in the Act is the discretion of the Commissioners of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Civil Service Commissioners; which discretion cannot be exercised unless on application of the War Office authorities.

It is obvious that this discretion has not been exercised in favour of the workmen.

The Committee are therefore of opinion that the workmen entered in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and the other Government departments, as to which inquiry has been made, subsequently to the 17th day of December 1861, are not within the benefits of the Act of 1873.

(4.) The meaning of the fourth subject of reference, whether the workman ought to be within the benefit of the Act, is not very clear.

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The Committee interpret it as an instruction to report on the equity of the case. They are of opinion that the moment the War Office had determined that workmen engaged after a certain date should neither be permitted to submit themselves to examination nor be entitled to superannuation, that decision should have been made known to the men in the most public manner. That this was not done is much to be regretted. It was clearly unjust to the men to make an alteration in the terms of their engagement without plainly informing them of the fact, and the Committee are distinctly of opinion that the workmen are entitled to compensation.

The question of amount would be one of difficulty, if there were not the precedent of the workmen engaged between 1859 and 1861.

The War Office draws a wide distinction between the two classes, on the ground that during the earlier period the policy of the office was not determined, while in the later years a decision had been arrived at.

The Committee cannot attach weight to this distinction, and do not think it ought to be admitted as prejudicing the interests of the men to whom the War Office decision was not communicated, and who, therefore, must be held to be in the same position as regards well-grounded expectation of superannuation as those previously appointed.

18 June 1889.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Friday, 3rd May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.
Mr. John Talbot.

Mr. Walter James.
Sir Joseph Bailey.

A quorum of the Committee not being present,

The Committee adjourned till Tuesday, 21st May, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 21st May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Wiggin.
Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. John Talbot.
Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.

Mr. Fenwick.
Mr. Walter James.
Colonel Nolan.

Sir JOSEPH BAILEY was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated.

Colonel *Edwin Hughes* (a Member of the House), was examined.

Sir *Arthur Lawrence Haliburton*, K.C.B., was examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at One o'clock.]

Thursday, 23rd May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir JOSEPH BAILEY in the Chair.

Mr. Walter James.
Mr. John Talbot.
Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.

Mr. Wiggin.
Mr. Fenwick.
Colonel Nolan.

Sir *Arthur Lawrence Haliburton*, K.C.B., was further examined.

Mr. *George Lock*, Mr. *John Brodie*, Mr. *William Carter*, Mr. *Robert Foss*, Mr. *Henry Williams*, and Mr. *Henry Ronald*, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Monday, 27th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir JOSEPH BAILEY in the Chair.

Mr. John Talbot.
Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.
Mr. Walter James.

Colonel Nolan.
Mr. Fenwick.
Mr. Wiggin.

Sir *Arthur Lawrence Haliburton*, K.C.B., was further examined.

Mr. *William E. S. Oram*, Mr. *Charles Piper*, Mr. *Charles Shipman*, Mr. *Richard Edmonds*, Mr. *Alexander Anderson*, Mr. *James M'Gee*, Mr. *Frederick Tatton*, Mr. *Richard Ward*, Mr. *George Masters*, Mr. *Henry Travis*, Mr. *Charles Chamberlain*, Mr. *James Taylor*, Mr. *Robert Turnbull*, Mr. *John M' Coy*, and Mr. *John Howell Ball*, were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, 18th June,
at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 18th June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir JOSEPH BAILEY in the Chair.

Mr. Wiggin.
Mr. John Talbot.
Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.

Colonel Nolan.
Mr. Fenwick.
Mr. Walter James.

Mr. *Francis Mowatt*, C.B., was examined.

DRAFT REPORT, proposed by the *Chairman*, read the first time, as follows :—

“ 1. The Reference to the Committee involves four points :

“ (1.) An inquiry into the circumstances under which workmen, entered in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and other Government establishments, between the 17th day of December 1861, and the 4th day of June 1870, have hitherto been refused the benefit of the Superannuation Act, 1859, and the Superannuation Amendment Act, 1873, and subsequent Amendment Acts.

“ (2.) Whether it was in the year 1870, or later, that they were first informed that a War Office Circular of the 17th day of December 1861, had assumed to suspend the Superannuation Act, 1859, so far as these men were concerned.

“ (3.) Whether they are, or,

“ (4.) Ought to be within the benefits of the said Act of 1873.

“ 2. Lapse of time has much increased the difficulty of the investigation.

“ Some of the events to which it is necessary to refer, took place between 1859 and 1861, nearly 30 years ago.

“ Almost all the people in authority at that time are dead, the memory of the survivors who have been examined is necessarily imperfect, and it is by the merest accident that important documentary evidence has been preserved. Q. 184. Q. 395. Q. 184.

“ 3. Up to the year 1857 persons in the Civil Service of the State received pensions or retiring allowances provided wholly or in part by an abatement made from their salaries (4, 5 Wm. 4, c. 24). This abatement was done away with in the year 1857 (20, 21 Vict. c. 37); and two years afterwards there was passed the Superannuation Act of 1859, placing the Superannuation of Civil Servants on a new footing.

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Superannuation Act,
1859.

" 4. This measure, after reciting the Acts above referred to, enacts (*inter alia*):

" (Section 2.) The Superannuation Allowance to be granted after the commencement of this Act to persons who shall have served in an established capacity in the permanent Civil Service of the State, whether their remuneration be computed by 'day pay, weekly wages, or annual salary, and for whom provision shall not otherwise have been made by Act of Parliament, or who may not be specially excepted by the authority of Parliament, shall be as follows: (that is to say) "to any person who shall have served 10 years, an annual allowance of 10-60ths of the annual salary and emoluments of his office;" for 11 years, 11-60ths, and a further addition of 1-60th for every year of service, until the completion of 40 years of service, when the maximum allowance of 40-60ths may be granted."

" "If any question shall arise as to the claim of any person, or class of persons, for superannuation, it shall be referred to the Commissioners of the Treasury, whose decision shall be final."

" "Section (17.) No person hereafter to be appointed shall be deemed to have served in the permanent Civil Service of the State, unless such person holds his appointment directly from the Crown, or has been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners; nor shall any person already appointed be held to have served in the permanent Civil Service as aforesaid, unless such person belong to a class which is already entitled to Superannuation Allowance, or to a class in which if he had been appointed thereto subsequently to the passing of this Act, he would, as holding his appointment directly from the Crown, or having been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate have become entitled to such allowance."

" 5. It will be observed that the Act, so far as persons admitted to the Civil Service after 1859 are concerned, deals only with those holding office direct from the Crown [with whom this inquiry is not concerned], or admitted with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners. And that in case of dispute the decision of the Treasury is final.

Status of artisans
before 1859.
Q. 301, &c.

" 6. The artisans of the War Office Departments, previously to 1859, had never been entitled to superannuation under any Act of Parliament, nor had deductions ever been made from their pay for that purpose.

War Office
Memorandum,
13 March 1871.

" All persons in this class, who, on account of age and infirmity, retired from the Service, were entitled under the Ordnance Regulations to a pension amounting after 15 years' service to 10-40ths, this rate gradually increasing until after 50 years of service it reached the maximum of 26-40ths.

" 7. This amount of pension, though it took somewhat longer to earn, did not differ much in amount from that prescribed by the Superannuation Act, 1859.

" 8. Ordinary labourers were entitled to a smaller pension; 10 l. a-year after 20 years' service; 15 l. if the service amounted to 35 years.

" 9. Although the artisans were thus entitled to pension, it had become necessary in 1859 to pay them what the War Office considered to be the full market rate of wages.

Q. 268-273.
Mr. Anderson's letter,
December 1859.

" Mr. (afterwards Sir John) Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Gun Factories, at the close of the year, in answer to War Office instructions dated 5th December 1859, wrote as follows:

" "The tie between the Government and the greater number of workmen, who are taken on for employment, is a very slight one indeed as compared with what it was when I first came into the Arsenal in 1842. At that time the wages of artificers was one uniform dead level of 24 s. 6 d. per week, and the work performed on the average was worth little more than half that amount. The men considered themselves as fixtures, they were seldom or never removed, except in superannuation, and when they worked overtime there was no extra pay. Now (1859) it is entirely changed; *to get good workmen we are paying the full London price.* We neither give nor take a quarter of an hour, and all overtime is paid for at the rate of one and a-half; an hour counts as an hour and a-half. We are constantly taking men out of the crowd who surround the gates daily, and as regularly paying away those who are found to be inferior or slow workmen With the view to induce some of the best men to remain *I have used, as an argument,* the constancy of employment, the payment for holidays, and the superannuation after long service; but nothing less than another halfpenny an hour would answer the purpose."

Q. 476, 560, 582, 621.

" 10. Amongst themselves the men freely discussed the Superannuation Act, and speculated on its bearing on their own interests; but none of their superiors seem to have given them the slightest intimation that their condition as to pension was altered.

Col. Campbell's letter,
23 Nov. 1870.
Q. 201.

" 11. Colonel Campbell, Superintendent of the Royal Gun Factories, writes in 1870 to the War Office of the events between 1859 and 1861:

" "It is clear that the Superannuation Act of 1859 was not made known to the men of this department."

" 12. Colonel Campbell was not employed at the Arsenal till 1863; but his information in 1870 is at least as good as anything which we can now obtain.

" 13. Their

"13. Their superiors continued to hold out to the men the prospect of Superannuation as a reason for inducing them to take service under the State; Mr. Anderson, speaking on 17th March 1860, on the occasion of a gentleman retiring with a pension, said:

Q. 160.
Mr. Anderson's
Speech,
17 March 1860.

" 'One great advantage of being connected with a Government Establishment was the certainty that anyone who conducted himself with propriety might look forward to a comfortable superannuation.'

"14. The claims of the workmen up to 17th December 1861 have been already conceded. The foregoing statement is, however, necessary, in order that the case of the men entering after 1861 may be understood.

"15. No action with regard to the future status of the workmen seem to have been taken until the later months of 1860, when a correspondence took place between the War Office, the Treasury, and the Admiralty, the upshot of which will be evident from the following extract of a letter from the Treasury to the War Office, dated 7th January 1861: 'I am directed by Mr. Secretary Herbert to acquaint you that in some establishments under the Admiralty there are a class of artificers, shipwrights, riggers, &c., who work in classes at fixed wages, often below the market value at the time in private yards, and whose permanent connection is alike beneficial to the State, by enabling it to secure and retain the services of a trained and efficient body of workmen, in case of emergency or war; and to the men, by securing their steady employment during periods of peace or depression in their trades, with a provision in case of incapacity from old age or illness. Mr. Herbert is desirous of learning whether any operatives are employed in your departments under such conditions.'

Treasury Letter,
7 January 1861.

"16. This letter was communicated to the heads of the various departments, and replies were received as follows: The superintendents of the Small Arms Factory, Enfield, and the Royal Gun Factory answered, that foremen and mechanics in those departments received the full market value for their services.

January and
February 1861.
Q. 242.

"17. The superintendent of the Laboratory replied to the same effect, but added that in his opinion foremen ought to be entitled to pension.

18 January 1861.

"18. The War Office wrote back, 22nd January 1861: 'I am directed by the Secretary of State for War in regard to the last paragraph of your letter, to acquaint you that in order to establish the claim of the foremen, who have entered the service since 19th April 1859, to the allowance granted under the Superannuation Act, it will be necessary that the appointment of these men should be of a permanent character, and approved by the Secretary of State, and as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have made a condition that men in Government employ receiving wages fully equal to the market rate paid in private establishments should not, as a rule, be admitted to the prospective advantages of the Superannuation Act, it will be requisite before these men are admitted to the establishment that their number and precise rate of wages should be stated, and the relative value of their wages determined in reference to the remuneration which they would obtain from private employers.'

22 January 1861.
Q. 251.

Q. 251.

"19. To this Captain Boxer, the Superintendent of the Laboratory, replied (13th February 1861) that the wages of the foremen in his Department were regulated by the market rate.

Captain Boxer's
letter,
13 February 1861.

"And the War Office thereupon communicated to him the final decision of the Treasury, that it was not expedient to make any exception in favour of the foremen.

War Office letter,
19 February 1861.
Q. 251.

"20. In the Carriage Department, Colonel Tulloch reported that his men were paid at a lower rate than in the other departments [the work in the Carriage Department not being then of so special a character].

Q. 254.

"A long correspondence ensued. It ended in the War Office instructing Colonel Tulloch that he must pay his men the full market rate.

"21. Further time was again taken for consideration, and on the 29th of August 1861, the following Circular was addressed by the War Office to the heads of the various departments:

Q. 11, 12, 181.

"War Office Circular 709. 29 August 1861.

War Office Circular
709, 29 August 1861.

"(To the Officers in charge of Departments.)

"Sir,

"I am directed by Secretary Sir G. C. Lewis to transmit, for your information and guidance, the enclosed rules in regard to the superannuation of artificers, labourers, and others, who are in receipt of daily or weekly wages, and who have entered the service since the passing of the Superannuation Act of 19th April 1859. And as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury are desirous of being furnished with lists of the individuals or class of persons who will be eligible under these regulations, I am to request that you will transmit a return thereof at the earliest opportunity.

"(signed) B. Hawes.

"ENCLOSED RULES.

"The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had under their consideration the regulations which should be adopted to give effect to the Superannuation Act of 19th April 1859 in regard to the allowances to be issued to such artificers, labourers, and others in receipt of wages, as have been appointed since the date of the Act in question, and having further considered the proper manner of applying the provisions of the Act with reference to the nature of the remuneration given, either by means of total compensation for service in the grant of a market rate of wages, or by a rate inferior

thereto, which in course of years is made up by steady employment, and the prospect of superannuation, have determined—

“(1.) That no persons are entitled to superannuation who are in receipt of the full market rate of wages.

“(2.) That persons receiving less than the full market rate of wages may be admitted to the service in an established capacity and become entitled to superannuation on the following terms:—

“(Rule 3, dealing with the age of entry, does not bear upon the present inquiry).

“(4.) The 17th section of the Act requires that all persons not appointed directly by the Crown, shall, before appointment, pass a satisfactory examination before the Civil Service Commissioners, and receive a certificate of competency. The service of such person will reckon towards superannuation from the date of certificate, or from the date, when a subsequent one, of the commencement of their duties.

“[Rules 5 and 6, dealing with the subjects of examination, and the special case of foreigners employed in the Colonies, need not be quoted.]

“22. The Circular of August was followed by a second explanatory Circular, dated 17th December 1861 (No. 729), by it the age for admission to the service is altered; it then proceeds:—

“The rate of wages paid at a station, at which the men are found willing to engage themselves for employment, must be taken to be ‘full market rate,’ it being optional with the men to accept or refuse such wages. *Should there, however, be any men at your station engaged since the passing of the Act (19th April 1859), who have really entered the Department on a clear understanding, or with a well-grounded expectation, that they would, if they conducted themselves well, and remained in the employment of the Department, receive future superannuation, Sir G. C. Lewis will (on receiving the full particulars of each case) consider whether such cases should be transmitted for the special consideration and decision of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury.*

“(signed) B. Hawes.

“23. It will be observed that by the letter of 19th February 1861, the heads of Departments had been instructed to pay their men at ‘full market rate’; and that by the Circular 709, men in receipt of full market rate were excluded from prospect of superannuation.

“24. This Circular is mentioned in the reference to your Committee as one ‘which assumes to suspend the Superannuation Act, 1859;’ this is not an accurate description, as the proviso at the end of the second section of that Act leaves all questions, as to the class of persons to receive superannuation allowances, entirely at the discretion of the Treasury.

“25. If the definition of ‘full market value,’ contained in Circular 729, namely, ‘That at which men are found willing to engage themselves for employment’ is to be adopted, it should at least, for the purpose of the present inquiry, be qualified by the addition,—

“That the daily wage so accepted is known by the men to be their total remuneration, without any prospect of the future advantage of superannuation allowance.

“26. In a department continually engaging and discharging artisans, where men would not readily work at a daily wage less than that offered by private firms, and where the exigencies of the Service demand the employment of varying numbers at different times, the decision to pay ‘full market rate,’ and incur no future liability for superannuation, will probably be considered a wise one.

“27. It is obvious that to pay ‘full market rate,’ and, in addition, to give superannuation allowance, would place the Government factories at considerable disadvantage.

“28. Whether the men were paid ‘full market rate’ is scarcely possible now to determine, the market rate constantly varying with the trade necessities of the time, and the capabilities of the individual workmen.

“29. Taking the men all round, the day-rate may have been rather less than that given by private firms; but the day-rate did not accurately represent the earnings of the men, 76 per cent. of them being employed on piece-work, at which they could earn in a day pay equal to a day and a quarter, or a day and a third.

“30. Doubts have been expressed whether these Circulars were received by the various Departments in 1861.

“The Circulars have been produced, on each of them appears a memorandum, ‘Ordered for circulation,’ ‘29th August 1861,’ ‘and 31st December 1861,’ respectively.

“At Waltham Abbey they are bound into a book of Circulars, and are inserted in their proper place; which is fairly good evidence that they were received there at the proper date.

“31. In the books of two other Departments, however, the Circulars are omitted, and have been pasted in afterwards; in one instance this was done as late as the year 1873.

“32. Another reason given for doubting whether the Circulars were sent to all the Departments is that the lists of names, ordered by Circular 709 to be sent to the Treasury, were, as a matter of fact, never so sent.

“33. The explanation is that the whole of the men were then in receipt of the full market rate of wages; and, in the opinion of the heads of Departments, there were none who would be entitled to superannuation.

“34. On the whole, it is likely that the Circulars were duly issued from the War Office, and received by the heads of Departments; had the heads of Departments published them

in

War Office Circular of
17 December 1861.
Q. 53.

Remarks on the
Circulars.
Q. 182.

Q. 182.

Q. 164.

Q. 163.

Q. 141.

Q. 846.

Q. 878.

Q. 879.

Doubts if Circulars
were ever published.

Q. 28.

Q. 184.

Q. 193.

Q. 194.

Q. 779.

Q. 175.

in turn to the men, the necessity for the present inquiry would in all probability never have arisen.

"35. It is admitted that if the present claimants were misled by the heads of their Departments as to the terms of their engagements, and if substantial loss has been entailed on them in consequence, it might be a reason for granting them special relief. Q. 182.

"36. Sir A. Haliburton gives as his opinion, 'That the heads of Departments should have made the Circulars thoroughly well known,' and adds, 'it is quite clear they did not do so.' Q. 220.

"37. Colonel Milward writes to the War Office, July 1870, 'I cannot trace that any Circular was issued.' He thinks, however, that the circumstances were understood, and then adds, 'no application has been made, as I am careful not to make any inquiry, as, if I did so, I have no doubt numerous claims would arise.' Q. 202.

"38. Thus it has been repeatedly admitted on behalf of the War Office that the Departments did not issue the Circulars to the men, nor (except in one Department) make known the fact that artizans engaged in future would not be entitled to superannuation.

"39. It is asserted that the Carriage Department did announce to the men the stoppage of superannuation; and it is urged on behalf of the War Office that from these workmen all the artificers at Woolwich must have learned the truth. Q. 198.

"40. It is necessary, therefore, to inquire how far and when the change of arrangements was known in the Carriage Department.

"41. Mr. Lock, a messenger in the Carriage Office, was told to make known to the men the change of arrangements in 1862, and during that year he did tell some of them that they would not be entitled to superannuation; he adds that he did not tell all; 'very few to his recollection.' Q. 386. Q. 401, 402.

"42. In this year, 1862, a plan was, for the first time, adopted of making the artizans on entry sign a book of regulations. The book then printed contained no information as to the stoppage of superannuation. In several of these books there is a manuscript marginal note in very small writing, that the men are to be informed that they have no claim to superannuation. Q. 694. Q. 679.

"43. 'This entry is in the handwriting of Mr. John Ball, once a writer in the Carriage Department. He entered the Service in 1864, and left in 1866. On one of these books is a memorandum, 'Revised 20th May 1864, which makes it probable that this instruction was issued on 20th May 1864, and it is certain that the entry must have been made before the end of 1866.' Q. 1178. Q. 697.

"44. This fixes the date after which workmen in the Carriage Department should have been aware that they would not receive superannuation. It was a very imperfect way of giving the information, and was so carelessly carried out, that it is not possible to find affirmatively that the workmen were affected with notice; one regulation book was produced, which was in use as late as 1869, in which the notice as to superannuation does not appear.

"Since the year 1873 each workman on entry has been supplied with a book of regulations, in which the rule as to superannuations is clearly printed. Q. 784.

"45. The first claim for superannuation made by an artizan engaged after 1859 was that of George Weaver; he was discharged from the Royal Gun Factories on the 27th May 1870, and applied for his pension on the 14th of June following. The Weaver Correspondence.

"In making his claim he alludes to the Circular of 1861. This is relied on by the War Office as tending to prove that the men were aware of the Circular.

"46. The letter was drafted for Weaver by a friend, Mr. H. Ronald, a writer in the office of the Royal Gun Factory: Q. 506 et seq.

"Mr. Ronald had come across the Circular in the course of his official duties; thinking his interests affected by the reference to superannuation, he took a copy, which he had shown to a few other persons interested in the matter. Q. 612.

"47. Colonel Campbell, then Superintendent of the Royal Gun Factories, urged strongly the favourable consideration of the case. Colonel Campbell's letter, 8 July 1870.

"He wrote, on 8th July 1870, to Lord Northbrook, stating, that 'the men between 1859 and 1861 entered the Service with the distinct impression that they would be entitled to superannuation; there is a certain speciality about the work of the foremen, and every year that they remain in a Government establishment performing a particular duty, they become, in a corresponding degree, unfitted for the ordinary trade of the country, and are consequently less able to compete with their fellow workmen if thrown again upon the market.'

"48. To this, on the 19th of July, Mr. Secretary Cardwell replied, that the provisions of the Superannuation Act, 1859 (section 17) did not admit of retired allowances being granted to men who entered the Service subsequently to its date, and who were not in possession of the certificate of the Civil Service Commissioners. Mr. Secretary Cardwell's letter, 19 July 1870.

"49. The application was, therefore, at the time, refused, though a pension was afterwards granted to him under subsequent legislation. War Office Letter (C. Talbot) to Weaver, 19 July 1870.

War Office Letter
(R. Thompson) to
Weaver, 4 February
1874.

"50. On the 19th August 1870, the following Circular was posted on the notice boards of the Royal Gun Factories, Woolwich :—

"The Secretary of State for War has decided that workmen who entered the Service subsequently to the passing of the Superannuation Act of 1859, without certificates from the Civil Service Commissioners, are not entitled to the benefits of that Act.

(signed) F. A. Campbell.

Artificers' meeting,
1 September 1870.

"51. On the 1st September 1870, the men who had entered between 1859 and 1870 held a meeting, and addressed to their superiors a memorial, praying for a re-consideration of the decision of the 19th of August.

"In this memorial, and in similar papers on behalf of various individuals, the exact words of the Circular of the 17th December 1861 are quoted.

"The Circulars of 1861 must therefore have become a matter of common knowledge before the date 1st September 1870.

"52. The discovery that it was impossible to grant superannuation to men entering (without certificates) after 1859, under the Act of that year, led to further legislation.

War Office Pensions
Bill, 1872.

"53. A Bill was introduced by Mr. Secretary Cardwell, entitled the War Office Pensions Bill, 1872; it recited the Act of 1859, and added that certain artificers, &c., *in ignorance of that enactment*, entered the permanent Civil Service of the War Department between the passing of the said Act and 17th December 1861, without having obtained a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners.

"It then proposed to revive, on their behalf, the old scale of War Office pensions.

"Objections were taken to this course, and the Bill was withdrawn.

Superannuation Act
Amendment Act, 1873,
as amended by the
Amendment Act, 1884.

"54. The following year there was passed the Superannuation Act Amendment Act, 1873.

"This Act is a general measure, covering other Departments besides the War Office. It is to the following effect (the Act of 1859 is recited, and then):—

"Whereas it appears that in several Public Departments persons have been appointed since 1859 to established situations, but that, *through inadvertence on the part of the heads of such Departments*, and without any default on the part of the persons so appointed, no steps were taken before their appointment to procure for them certificates from the Civil Service Commissioners;

"And whereas it is unjust that persons so appointed should be deprived of the superannuation allowances which they were led to expect at the time when they entered the Civil Service, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may, if they think fit, . . . with the concurrence of the Civil Service Commissioners, and on application being made to them for that purpose by the head of any Public Department, declare that [the persons indicated] shall be in the same position with regard to superannuation allowance as they would have been if admitted into the Service by a Commissioner's certificate."

"[Under the Act of 1873 action had to be taken before a certain date; this has been done away with by the Amending Act of 1884.]

Debate 1873,
Hansard, vol. 215,
column 1700.

"55. During the debate of 1873 exception was taken by economists to the wide scope of the measure, and the following sub-section was thereupon inserted:—

"The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall cause to be laid before Parliament a Return showing the names of all persons with respect to whom any order has been issued in pursuance with this section, &c.

Return of 1874.

"56. This Return was published on the 4th of March 1874; it schedules, amongst others, artisans entering the service of the War Department between the passing of the Act of 1859 and 31st December 1861.

"57. With this the men who have entered since 1861 were discontented, and commenced the agitation which has resulted in the present inquiry.

SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

"58. (1.) The foregoing history is the substance of the inquiry by the Committee into the circumstances under which workmen entering the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and other Government establishments, between the 17th day of December 1861 and the 4th day of June 1870, have hitherto been refused the benefit of the Superannuation Act, 1859, and the Amending Act of 1873, and subsequent Acts.

"59. (2.) No official notice to the men of War Office Circular of the 17th December 1861 seems ever to have been given. Its existence, however, became known to the artisans not later than 1870 [possibly through the copy taken by Ronald], and was quoted in their memorial of that date.

"60. The important part of the Circular, namely, the abolition of the prospect of superannuation in the case of artisans receiving 'the full market rate' of wages, was first officially communicated to the entire Arsenal by notice dated 19th August 1870.

"61. (3.) Any report made by this Committee on the third point referred to them, namely, whether these men are within the benefits of the Act of 1873, must necessarily be

be inferior in authority to a judgment of the Courts, or the opinion of the law officers; and the following remarks are made with diffidence, and subject to the observations above:—

“62. The advantages of the Superannuation Act of 1859, so far as persons entering the service after the passing of the Act, and not holding office directly from the Crown, are concerned, are limited to persons serving in an established capacity in the permanent Civil Service, who have been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners. The artizans entering the service since December 1861 have not been admitted by certificate; they are, therefore, not entitled to the benefits of the Act of 1859, unless they have become so entitled as the effect of subsequent legislation.

“63. The amending Act of 1873 has two limitations: first, it is limited to persons on the establishment of the Civil Service who, *through inadvertence on the part of heads of Departments*, have failed to procure certificates.

“64. The War Office were doubtless liable to the imputation of inadvertence during the years 1859, 1860, and 1861. But in the latter end of 1861 they had finally decided that workmen should be engaged at ‘full market rate,’ and not be entitled to superannuation.

“This decision may have been right, or it may have been wrong, but it was the distinct outcome of a settled policy; therefore, the workmen who entered subsequently to 17th December 1861 cannot come within the scope of a measure which is limited to cases of inadvertence on the part of heads of departments.

“65. The second limitation in the Act is the discretion of the Commissioners of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Civil Service Commissioners; which discretion cannot be exercised unless on application of the War Office authorities.

“It is obvious that this discretion has not been exercised in favour of the workmen.

“66. The Committee are therefore of opinion that the workmen entered in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and the other Government departments, as to which inquiry has been made, subsequently to the 17th day of December 1861, are not within the benefits of the Act of 1873.

“67. (4.) The meaning of the fourth subject of reference, whether the workman ought to be within the benefit of the Act, is not very clear.

“The Committee interpret it as an instruction to report on the equity of the case. They are of opinion that the moment the War Office had determined that workmen engaged after a certain date should neither be permitted to submit themselves to examination nor be entitled to superannuation, that decision should have been made known to the men in the most public manner. That this was not done is much to be regretted. It was clearly unjust to the men to make an alteration in the terms of their engagement without plainly informing them of the fact, and the Committee are distinctly of opinion that the workmen are entitled to compensation.

“68. The question of amount would be one of difficulty, if there were not the precedent of the workmen engaged between 1859 and 1861.

“69. The War Office draws a wide distinction between the two classes, on the ground that during the earlier period the policy of the office was not determined, while in the later years a decision had been arrived at.

“The Committee cannot attach to this distinction moral weight, and do not think it ought to be admitted as prejudicing the interests of the men to whom the War Office decision was not communicated, and who, therefore, must be held to be in the same position as regards well-grounded expectation of superannuation as those previously appointed.”

DRAFT REPORT, proposed by the *Chairman*, read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1—5, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 6, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 7—9, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 10, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 11—58, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 59, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 60—68, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 69, amended, and *agreed to*.

Question, That this Report, as amended, be the Report of the Committee to the House, —put, and *agreed to*.

Ordered, To Report, together with the Minutes of the Evidence, and an Appendix.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Tuesday, 21st May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart.
Mr. Fenwick.
Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.
Mr. Walter James.

Colonel Nolan.
Mr. John Talbot.
Mr. Wiggin.

SIR JOSEPH BAILEY, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

COLONEL EDWIN HUGHES (a Member of the House) ; Examined.

1. *Chairman.*] WILL you kindly state your case in your own way?—I have written out a statement which I should like to read, if I might be allowed to do so, as it embraces everything I should wish to say.

2. Will you kindly do so?—Woolwich Arsenal is now part of the War Department, but the old name was the Ordnance Department. At the Arsenal, under the old Ordnance Superannuation scale, overseers, master artificers, and foremen were entitled, after 15 years' service, to fifteen-sixtieths of their pay, with an increase for every five years of service; all descriptions of working artificers at 3 s. 6 d. a day and upwards, after 20 years' service, 20 l. a year, and after 35 years, 24 l.; artificers, at from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. a day, 15 l. and 20 l.; for labourers of every description, 10 l. and 15 l. Then came an Act, 1857, that no abatement was to be made from salaries for pension; this is recited in the Act of 1859. In the discussion on the Act of 1857, at the bottom of page 704, of the 146th volume of "Hansard," 30th June 1857, you will find the Chancellor of the Exchequer says: that the Diplomatic pensions were 25,718 l.; the Judicial and Legal were 240,551 l.; the Civil Service pensions were 867,295 l.; the pensions granted to Artificers of the Navy and Ordnance were 74,700 l.; making the total of Superannuation Allowances to the Civil Service of 1,208,264 l. In 1859 the Superannuation Act, 1859, was discussed as a Bill, General Codrington ("Hansard," Vol. 152, page 595, 18 February 1859), Member for Greenwich, which included Woolwich at that time, said he hoped the Bill was so framed as to include within its scope artificers and labourers, employed in the Government establishments, Sir Stafford Northcote said, "The Act would extend to all persons in the public service ("Hansard," Vol. 153, page 355, 18th March 1859. Mr. Gladstone (Vol. 153, page 365, 18th March 1859) said, "they were enacting now that which would not take full effect for the next 40 or 50 years, and they were now entering into a new set of

engagements every one of which, even if it reached over half a century or more, must be kept absolutely sacred, however onerous might be the consequences." The Act of 1859 gave a certain number of sixtieths, since known as the Civil Service Scale; but it enacted that persons already serving must belong to a class already entitled to superannuation (as I have said this class was entitled under the Ordnance Scale), or if thereafter appointed must be admitted with a "certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners." That is provided for in Section 17 of the Act of 1859. There were originally three contentions against the men for whom I claim: Firstly, that they were not intended to be included in the statute at all. As to that point, I would like to mention that Sir Stafford Northcote said, on the 18th March 1859 ("Hansard," vol. 153, page 355), that the Act of 1834 gave superannuation allowance to those officers only who were comprehended within its schedule, whereas this Bill would extend them to all persons in the public service, the abatements having been abolished, the grounds of distinction between one class of civil servants and another were swept away with them. Colonel Sykes said ("Hansard," vol. 153, page 369), on the 18th March 1859, although an economist and anxious to save the public money, he was bound at the same time to be just, and, therefore, he should support the Bill. The higher servants of the Crown were able to provide for their old age out of their salaries, but the lower class could not do so, and if they were permanent servants, it was the duty of the State to do that for them, which they could not do for themselves. With respect to the same Bill, Mr. Wilson, then Member for Devonport, wrote under date of the 19th February 1859, to Mr. R. B. Oram, of Devonport, informing him that these words had been inserted in the Bill, "whether their remuneration be computed by day pay, weekly wages, or annual salary," in order, as Mr. Wilson says, to show that all classes, labourers, artificers, and officers are alike included. The object of my reference in this matter is to show that these labourers were included in the Act of 1859 with the full knowledge and intention on the part of the Government and the House of Commons. Mr. Wilson further says that "the whole of the public service will be placed on precisely the same footing, and full effect will be given to the doctrine, for which he had always contended, since it was proposed to abolish the abatements, which was the only pretext for any distinction before;" and he concludes, "I send you this explanation thinking you may have many inquiries on the subject, and in order to enable you to answer them." There was, and is, no doubt that artificers and labourers are included in the Act. Orders were issued by the Royal Carriage Department, dated the 11th October 1860, and the 6th September 1861, stating that men entered after Superannuation Act were entitled. Taking next the second contention against the men. I come to the objection that the Superannuation Act, 1859, required that as to men thereafter appointed, they must be admitted with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners. This means, of course, a certificate obtained before entry. Now, this certificate is described in the debate. Sir Stafford Northcote (at page 377) said, "in reference to the examination of the men by the Civil Service Commissioners, he had to state that it would be necessary for the men to obtain from the Commissioners certificates as to their age, the state of their health, and other such matters as were elements in the calculation of their superannuation." After the Act of 1859, it was the duty of the heads of departments, where the men were entered, to see that these certificates were obtained, but they continued to enter men on the old system. The men who entered as artificers or labourers were none the worse artificers or labourers because their certificate was not obtained, and the men entered after 1859, got the same wages as the men entered before 1859, and at any rate it was not their fault that this requirement of a certificate was not complied with. There were, and are, printed regulations for the workmen posted in every shop, and I have a copy of the regulations in 1862, which contain not a word about a certificate, nor about any alteration in superannuation, which had existed for score of years, first under the Ordnance rules, and afterwards under the Superannuation Act, 1859, and workmen with 10 years' service and upwards were retiring every year and every month from 1859 to 1870 with pensions under the Act of 1859.

3. Were

21 May 1889.]

Colonel HUGHES, M.P.

[Continued.]

3. Were those workmen who had entered before 1861 or afterwards?—They could not get a pension until they had served 10 years, therefore those men who were retiring every month from 1859 to 1870 with pensions must have been men who had entered before 1859.

4. Mr. Wiggan.] Are there any cases you can mention of men entering between 1860 and 1870, who obtained pensions?—Yes, as I will explain directly, there were some men who entered after 1859. Continuing my statement, we come to the year 1870, when a workman named Weaver, who had entered in 1859 or 1860 retired, and claimed a pension; he went to the office, and they indited the form of his application, and in addition to his rights under the Superannuation Act, they referred to a War Office Circular, dated 17th December 1861, as an additional argument, and further remarks were introduced about want of certificate; and they made the man say it was his fault that he had not got the certificate, and not theirs.

5. When you say that “they made the man say it was his fault,” do you mean that they put a question which he was obliged to answer?—They wrote a note which he adopted.

6. That is, they wrote a note which they asked him to sign?—Yes, which they asked him to adopt.

7. Mr. Gatherne-Hardy.] On page 9 of the Parliamentary Paper 224, Copy Correspondence between you and the War Office; there is a letter of the 8th February 1887, and in the second paragraph of that letter, you say that this man Weaver “says he did not know of the War Office Circulars of 1861 until 1870, and that the letter he sent was drawn out for him in the office by a writer, named Ronald, and he (Weaver) copied it. I have also seen Ronald, and he confirms this.” That is the statement you are alluding to, I think?—That is so; and therefore I say that they made the man say it was his fault that he had not got the certificate (not theirs); but the Act of 1873, which I shall refer to, says it was the fault of the heads of departments. They further make him say that he relied on the Circular which he knew nothing of till that moment. In saying that I do not impute anything; I simply mean that Weaver was not responsible for the wording of the letter of application.

8. Chairman.] How do you propose that we are to have that proved?—By calling Weaver. This letter was prepared by Mr. Ronald, a writer in the office (under superintendence of course), and Weaver says he followed the draft given to him, and did not speak in 1870 of his own knowledge; only that he was advised to send the letter in that form. This is said to be proof of his knowledge years previously.

9. Mr. Talbot.] Weaver, I understand, is coming, and, I presume, also Ronald?—Yes, if you please. The Circular of 17th December 1861, to which reference was first made in 1870, had not been published for the information of the men when it was issued (nine years before), nor at any time between 1861 and 1870. The whole case now turns upon this. Then coming to the third contention against the men, the Circular of December 1861 was preceded, as we now know, by one of the 29th August 1861, which also was never published. The Committee have these Circulars, I believe. Perhaps I had better read them.

10. Chairman (to Sir Arthur Haliburton).] Will you kindly check these Circulars, if you have them before you, so that we may get at what is common ground?—I will.

11. Chairman (to the Witness).] Which is the first Circular you wish to read?—The first Circular of August is No. 709; this is the letter dated the 29th of August 1861, headed—“War Office, Pall Mall.” “Sir,—I am directed by Secretary Sir G. C. Lewis to transmit, for your information and guidance, the enclosed rules in regard to the superannuation of artificers, labourers, and others, who are in the receipt of daily or weekly wages, and who have entered the service since the passing of the Superannuation Act of 19th April 1859. And as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury are desirous of being furnished with lists of the individuals or class of persons, who will be eligible under these regulations, I am to request that you will transmit a return thereof

at the earliest opportunity." That is signed, *B. Hawes*, and is addressed to officers in charge of departments, &c."

12. *Chairman* (to *Sir Arthur Haliburton*.)] Is that a correct copy?—Yes.

13. *Chairman* (to the *Witness*.)] Will you kindly continue your statement?—Then these are the "enclosed rules," of which we did not know till 1870. "The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had under their consideration the regulations which should be adopted to give effect to the Superannuation Act of 19th April 1859, in regard to the allowances to be issued to such artificers, labourers, and others in the receipt of wages, as have been appointed since the date of the Act in question, and having further considered 'the proper manner of applying the provisions of the Act' in question with reference to the nature of the remuneration given, either by means of a total compensation for service in the grant of a market rate of wages, or by a rate inferior thereto, which in the course of years is made up by 'steady employment,' and the prospect of superannuation, have determined: (1) That no persons are entitled to superannuation who are in receipt of the full market rate of wages; (2) That persons, receiving less than the full market rate of wages, may be admitted to the service in an established capacity, and become entitled to superannuation on the following terms; (3) That the maximum age of admission to the service in an established capacity shall not exceed 35, except in special cases in which the Secretary of State may, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, consent to make an exception."

14. *Mr. Walter James*.] Do you say that that Circular was never published?—It was not known to any of the men till 1870.

15. *Mr. Wiggins*.] When was the first objection raised to granting these pensions?—In 1870, when the first claim became due.

16. You say that there are ten years' service required before a pension is due?—Yes.

17. From 1859 to 1870 would be 11 years, was any pension applied for and granted to any person who entered between 1859 and 1860?—Not until the 10 years had expired, and the first case was Weaver's case.

18. And that was objected to; I think you said, the objection was first raised in Weaver's case?—He had to make an application for his pension under the Act of 1859; and in order to assist his application, the people in the office suggested that he should refer to this Circular, and he did as he was told, as I have already explained. That was the first case of a man who had served 10 years after the Act of 1859, and who wanted to leave, or who was entitled to leave the service.

19. Was that pension granted?—The pension was granted to Weaver.

20. *Mr. Fenwick*.] Was that the first intimation of this circular from the War Office?—The first intimation to the men was in consequence of Weaver applying for his pension, and then reference was made to these Circulars, and the whole thing came out.

Sir ARTHUR LAWRENCE HALIBURTON, K.C.B., called in; and Examined.

21. *Chairman*.] I AM right, am I not, in supposing that between 1859 and 1861 it is common ground that there was lapse on the part of the authorities?—Yes.

22. One of these Circulars of 1861, I think, practically admits men between those two dates to superannuation?—The reason why they were admitted was, as recited in the Act of 1873, it was through inadvertence that the heads of departments did not qualify them by giving them a Civil Service certificate.

23. Is it not common ground that mechanics who, between the years 1859 and 1861, are entitled to pension by subsequent legislation?—Yes; that is admitted on our part.

24. (To *Colonel Hughes*.) May I take that as common ground?—It is not common ground with regard to the date. It is common ground to this extent: that

21 May 1889.] Colonel HUGHES, M.P., and Sir A. L. HALIBURTON. [Continued.]

that by the Act of 1873, any person appointed without a certificate after the Act of 1859, up to the 4th of June 1870, was so entitled, because the Act says that a certificate is to be excused up to the 4th of June 1870. That is what I am contending for.

25. (To Sir Arthur Haliburton.) You do not admit that, I understand?—That is not admitted at the War Office. I will explain afterwards what the contention of the War Office is, if you will allow me. Weaver's claim was not admitted till the Act of 1873 had been passed in order to enable the Government to admit certain persons joining between 1859 and 1861 without certificates.

26. *Chairman* (to Colonel Hughes).] Have you anything to add upon that point?—Weaver got his pension ultimately, those are the regulations issued in the Circular.

27. Mr. *Walter James*.] Why was not the Circular issued and published?—Sir Ralph Thompson in one of his letters says to me that the reason it was not published was because no man could have a claim under it till 10 years afterwards; but I may point out that the men were being entered under the impression that they were to have superannuation under the Act of 1859, and therefore it was most important that it should be published.

Sir Arthur Haliburton.] I think that Colonel Hughes must have misunderstood Sir Ralph Thompson's letter.

28. *Chairman* (to Colonel Hughes).] Have you his letter here?—I have, and I will refer to it in a moment, but perhaps you will allow me to finish this Circular which I was reading. It goes on "fourthly, the 17th section of the Act requires that all persons not appointed directly by the Crown, shall before appointment pass a satisfactory examination before the Civil Service Commissioners, and receive a certificate of competency. The service of such persons will reckon toward superannuation from the date of the certificate of the Commissioners, or from the date (when a subsequent one) of the commencement of their duties. (5) With a view to give effect to the fourth item of these regulations, Sir G. C. Lewis has decided that the examination shall embrace the following subjects, reading, writing, and arithmetic (first four rules). Each person will also be required to produce evidence of physical fitness, and the necessary proof of good character. (6.) All artificers, labourers, and others employed in the colonies who are not of the English race, but who may be nominated for permanent employment, will not (unless they desire it) be subjected to the educational examination above referred to. If, however, they should be exempted from this test they will be required to serve a period of five years on probation prior to appointment on establishment, and the necessary proof of age, good character, physical fitness, and aptitude for their duties must be furnished in order that the certificates of the Civil Service Commissioners, as required by the 17th Clause of the Superannuation Act may be obtained. (signed) *B. Hawes*." Then I go on with my statement as follows: As the Treasury required lists of the individuals or class of persons who would be eligible, although entered after 1859, and the officials were requested to transmit a return thereof at the earliest opportunity (that is soon after the 29th August 1861), you would expect that they were so transmitted. But no such list was ever attempted to be delivered at any time; which is only consistent with the allegation that the Circular never reached the Arsenal or Enfield at all in 1861. It was not till 1874 that lists were delivered, and then were delivered to comply with the Act of 1873. The Act of 1873 said that lists were to be delivered before the end of 1874; for that I may refer you to the notice of Colonel Field, which I have here, which asks for lists to be issued. I had better read this document, and put it in. This is a notice signed by Colonel Field, dated the 23rd of January 1873 (it is dated 1873; they have taken the date of the year which has expired, but it means the year 1874): "Notice. The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, with the concurrence of the Civil Service Commissioners, have been pleased to issue an order under the provisions of the Superannuation Act Amendment Act, 1873, in favour of the applications of the whole of the above-mentioned persons." That is the first time that lists were required to be delivered,

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delivered, and that was under the Act of 1873. The Circular of 1861, which requires lists, never had any lists delivered under it, which I say is a presumption that the Circular never reached the Arsenal or Enfield. As to the Circular of August 1861, which I just quoted, the first point is that, as in 1857, abatement for pension was abolished (that is, making a reduction from wages in respect of pension), what right had the Treasury to say that the proper manner of applying the Act of 1859 to get superannuation was to work at a rate inferior to the market rate of wages, or if at the market rate, without superannuation.

29. At what date was that abatement for pension abolished?—In the Act of 1857 deductions from salary in respect of pensions were abolished. The Act of 1859 says nothing about any deduction or any market rate. What is the use of Parliament passing a law to abolish abatement, which the War Office may set aside at their pleasure?

30. Mr. Wiggan.] Was there a deduction up to 1857 from the men's wages towards a superannuation fund?—From certain wages there was, but it was abolished by the Act of 1857, which says that no deduction should take place from any of the wages or salaries in future towards superannuation. The point I am making is that the Circular of August 1861, referring to the market rate of wages, was flying in the face of the Statutes of 1859 and 1857; because it is not a question of market rate at all, it is a question of Civil Service scale.

31. Mr. Gathorne-Hardy.] I understand one point you make to be that this Circular is inoperative, because it was not known to the men, that is quite clear; do you further make the second point, that even if the Circular was known to the men it was inoperative, as not being in accordance with the Act?—It is not necessary to make that point, but it is a point that can be made.

32. I should like to know whether you make it or not; because on that depends whether there are two points or one. Assuming this Circular of 1861 to be known to the men, do you say that, notwithstanding that, it would be inoperative as not being in accordance with the Act?—I do not make that point; it can be made, but I do not make it; because if it had been known to the men I should consider they were bound by the knowledge of it, if they did not chose to appeal to anybody at the time and allowed this long period to elapse.

33. Chairman.] Can you give me the reference to the Act of 1857?—It is quoted in the Act of 1859; it is 20 & 21 Vict. cap. 37.

Sir Arthur Haliburton.] It is the Act known as Lord Naas's Act, who was afterwards Lord Mayo.

34. Chairman (to Colonel Hughes).] Then I understand the only point practically is whether that Circular of 1861 was known to the men?—Yes, I am quite willing to let it rest upon that point, as I have always said; but it is still subject to this observation that not a word is said about the market rate in the Superannuation Act, and the rates have not altered either before or since the Act. The Arsenal wages have always been the same. I do not know exactly what the line is that may be taken by the War Office upon this matter. Both these Circulars refer to the rates. When this Circular was known in 1870, nine years after issue, it had never been acted upon in the Arsenal, either according to the Circular of August 1861, or Sir Stafford Northcote's definition of the certificate.

35. Mr. John Talbot.] It could not have been acted upon, because the time had not come when it would come into operation?—The time had come for sending up lists of those who were serving, and who would become entitled in due time, because the Circular says that "as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury are desirous of being furnished with lists of the individuals or claims of persons who will be eligible under these regulations, I am to request that you will transmit a return thereof at the earliest opportunity." That is the Circular of 1861. If, as I say, no lists were sent up of any kind or description, notwithstanding this request in 1861, till 1874 (that is 13 years); that I contend is evidence that nobody knew anything about the Circular, not even the heads of departments themselves.

36. Mr. Wiggan.] Was no second application made between 1861 and 1873 for

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for a reply to their inquiry as to the number and the names of the men?—None whatever.

37. Mr. *Walter James*.] Did they not know all that they had to obtain a Civil Service Commission qualifying certificate?—But the Act of 1873 excused a certificate.

38. I am speaking of the time between 1860 and 1873, before the Act of 1873 was passed?—If anybody knew it, it would be the heads of departments.

39. If they went and obtained a certificate were they not aware that but for that they would be excluded from the benefit of the Act?—True, but the Act of 1873 says, “Whereas by the Superannuation Act, 1859, it is enacted that for the purposes of that Act no person thereafter to be appointed shall be deemed to have served in the permanent Civil Service of the State unless such person holds his appointment directly from the Crown, or has been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners. And whereas it appears that in several public departments of the State persons have been appointed since the passing of the said Act to established situations in the Civil Service not held directly from the Crown, but that through inadvertence on the part of the heads of such departments, and without any default on the part of the persons so appointed, no steps were taken before their appointment to procure for them certificates from the Civil Service Commissioners. And whereas it is unjust that the persons so appointed should be deprived of the superannuation allowances or gratuities which they were led to expect at the time when they entered the Civil Service. Be it enacted, “that the Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury may, notwithstanding this absence of certificate, make out a list of the persons entitled to superannuation. That is the Superannuation Act of 1873. Then there was another Act passed in 1876, which recites the previous Act, and which, in fact, extends the date. Under the Act of 1873 the lists were to be made up by the end of 1874. When they made up the list at the end of 1874 they left a lot of people out, and there was another statute passed; in fact, about half-a-dozen were passed, correcting these lists, and so on, up till the year 1884, and the thing was found to be so troublesome that the Act of 1884 was passed, saying that they should not limit any time, but they might bring up a case whenever they found it out. That is a sort of permanent Act under which they can bring anybody in whom they have left out in the previous Acts.

40. *Chairman*.] I think you had better put in the references to those Acts if you have them, so that we may have a list of the papers in order. You have already referred us to the Act of 1857, the Act of 1859, and one Memorandum of August 1861, and a second Memorandum in 1861?—The second Circular is the 17th of December 1861.

41. What is the next paper you wish to refer to?—The Act of 1873, 36 & 37 Victoria, chapter 23, and then there are several other statutes; there is one in 1876, but the final one is 1884.

42. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] Cannot we take it shortly with regard to the statutes; is not the effect of all these statutes to grant superannuation to those who are clearly entitled to superannuation if they had a certificate, but who from some reason or other, owing to the lapse of the authorities have not obtained a certificate?—That is so.

43. Therefore, in point of fact, although these various Acts came one after another, we need not pile up the Acts of Parliament; because it is admitted, as I understand, that the general effect of all these Acts of Parliament, is to grant superannuation to certain persons who under the Statute, if they had had a certificate, would clearly be entitled to superannuation, but who from some reason or another have not got a certificate?—That is the effect of them.

44. *Chairman*.] I should like you to name the Acts upon which you rely?—The Act of 1859 gave superannuation to persons who were paid by day-pay, or weekly wages if they got a certificate before entering. That is the charter of these men. They did not get a certificate before entry, it is true; but the want of a certificate was excused to them, and to all other persons who

had not obtained a certificate by the Act of 1873, on the ground that it was due to inadvertence on the part of the person who entered them.

45. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Did the Act of 1873 make a clean sweep of all such persons?—Yes, up to the 4th of June 1870; it is only up to the 4th of June that I want these men brought in.

46. I understand that the Act of 1873 admits the whole?—It admits the whole up to the 4th of June 1873.

47. From 1859?—From 1859.

48. That is your contention?—That is my contention. I say that the Act of 1873 excused the certificate right up to the 4th of June 1870, and that the War Office should not limit the operation of that Act of 1873.

49. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] As I understand, the Act of 1873 excuses any disqualification for obtaining superannuation which results from the absence of a certificate?—Yes.

50. But if there is a further disqualification owing to this Circular becoming known to the men, it would not excuse that, it excuses the certificate, but it excuses nothing more?—Yes, that is all the Act of 1873 does; and all the subsequent Acts, with regard to the same matter, merely extend the date within which the lists may be made out of those persons who for some reason or other, not through their own fault, may have been unable to get a certificate.

51. And the last Act you referred to, that of 1884, made a clean sweep of the whole lot, did it not?—Yes; the Act merely recites that the lists were considered imperfect; that is, the lists of persons who had failed through inadvertence to get a certificate; and then it says, "The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may, if they think fit at any time" (formerly they had to do it within a limited time) an application being made to them by the head of any public department of the State, declare by Order or Warrant that a person who has been appointed after the date of the Superannuation Act, 1859, and before the passing of this Act, to a situation in such department entitling persons appointed thereto with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners to superannuation allowance, was appointed thereto without such a certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of such department, and without any default on the part of the person so appointed, and every person with respect to whom such Order or Warrant is issued, shall be in the same position as regards his claim to allowances under the Superannuation Act, 1859, as he would have been in if he had been appointed with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners."

52. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Is it the contention then, between the War Office and these men, that they ought to have applied for a certificate and did not; is that the objection they raise?—The War Office have contended several things.

Sir *Arthur Haliburton*.] That is not the objection taken by the War Office.

53. Mr. *Wiggin* (to Colonel *Hughes*).] I gather from you that the men who have been appointed, and to whom the pensions have been granted, are men without certificates, but the want of certificates was excused, as it was through the inadvertence of some of the officials?—The War Office, as I shall presently show, have admitted, under the Act of 1873, all the men who entered from 1859 up to the date of the Circular of the 17th December 1861. I read the first Circular in 1861, which introduced the question about the market rate, which I say we have nothing to do with. No difference in wages was made between men entered before 1859 or after 1859, nor any difference of wages of men who entered before or after the Circular of August 1861, nor was anything done in consequence of that Circular as to wages from 1861 up to the present moment in 1889. Then we come to the explanatory Circular of the 17th December 1861. This is War Office Circular, number 729. This also, I may say, we never had or knew of till 1870. This Circular is headed, Home, Foreign, and War Office, 17th December 1861. "With reference to Clause 3 of Regulations relative to Superannuation Allowances embodied in Circular 709, I am directed by Secretary Sir George Lewis to state that with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury

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the maximum age for office-keepers, foremen, labourers, &c., who have been appointed on the permanent establishment since the 19th of April 1859, and subsequently to their discharge or pension from the Army, has been raised, so far as the Military Store Department is concerned, to an age not exceeding 42, and the Royal Engineer and Barrack Departments to an age not exceeding 45. I am, however, to state, with reference to Clause 1 of the Regulations, which are attached to the Circular, that the rate of wages paid at a station at which men are found willing to engage themselves for employment must be taken to be the 'Full market rate,' it being optional with the men to accept or refuse such wages. Should there, however, be any men at your station engaged since the passing of the Act (19th April 1859), who have really entered the Department on a clear understanding, or with a well grounded expectation that they would, if they conducted themselves well, and remained in the employment of the Department, receive future superannuation; Sir George C. Lewis will (on receiving the full particulars of each case) consider whether such cases should be transmitted for the special consideration and decision of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury. (signed) *B. Hawes*." You will see that it states, with reference to the Circular of August, that the full market rate of wages means anything the men are willing to work for. They did not ask the men about it, nor inquire, and it therefore follows that under the August Circular the men to be superannuated because they were receiving less than the full market rate, must be men working for less than any other man would work for, which proposal is absurd, and was never acted upon; for I may remind you that when this Circular was known in 1870, nine years after, it was found that no differential rate of wages had ever taken place. The last clause in this Circular says, "Should there be any men at your station, who entered after 1859," and expect a superannuation, on receiving particulars the question will be referred to the Treasury. The authorities did not put up a notice even about this, and have not done so to this day. Sir Ralph Thompson, in his letter to me of the 13th of January 1887, says, "The real reason why applications were not sent in by the superintendents was, that they were under the impression that such a proceeding was unnecessary until the men were about to be superannuated." That is to say, that the Circular dated in 1861 need not be acted upon till ten years afterwards when claims can be made. That is the letter of Sir Ralph Thompson which I understood Sir Arthur Haliburton rather questioned just now.

Sir Arthur Haliburton.] I thought you gave a rather different construction to that letter just now.

54. *Chairman (To Colonel Hughes).*] Will you continue your statement?—This assumes the Circular to have been sent, but admits the whole case of non-publication, for as no man would be entitled to claim until 10 years' service after 1859, then, he says, a Circular issued in 1861, need not, so far as superannuation is concerned, be known to the men, entered prior to 1861, till 1870, as was the fact; Weaver's application was the first claim, and then the Circular was referred to deliberately and not till then, and then became known and talked about. Now I come to the important point; but the blunder that was made was this: the Circular affected not only men before 1861, but after; and from 1861 to 1870 new men were being entered, and were serving towards pension, as they justly thought, and I do not believe the Circular was ever sent in 1861, because these men entered in 1860 and 1861 were not at first considered entitled, the manufacturing departments, at first erroneously, were supposed to be out of the Act of 1859 altogether. In 1870 the heads of departments became alarmed; they issued a notice, dated 19th August 1870, which is as follows, and I would call attention to this as being exceedingly important: This is a notice signed by Colonel F. A. Campbell as superintendent. "The Secretary of State for War has decided that workmen who entered the service subsequently to the passing of the Superannuation Act of 1859 without certificates from the Civil Service Commissioners are not entitled to the benefit of that Act." That you observe, omits all reference to the Circulars of 1861.

55. *Mr. Wiggin.*] When was that notice dated?—The 19th of August 1870. That is the first notice that the men ever had of the slightest doubt

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doubt about their superannuation. I say that decision (that is, without any reference to the certificates) was strictly legal, but it was too unjust to be adhered to, and it was not adhered to, for the men entered between 1859 and 1870 held a meeting on the 1st of September 1870 (and I produce their minute-book), signed a list, and sent it to their chief in September 1870. This list I now produce (*producing the same*). This is a list of men who had entered from 1859 to 1870, and who, when this notice came out, and signed by Colonel Campbell in 1870, saying that no workman who had entered after 1859 without a certificate was entitled to the benefit of the Act of 1859, sent up a petition through him to the War Office.

56. How many are there in that list?—I think that there are somewhere about 800, or rather, I should say, it is more than that. I should say about 1,200. This is a list given to Colonel Campbell of the men entered after 1859 up to 1870 who objected to the notice which had been put up by him under date of the 19th of August 1870, stating that no superannuations would be granted after 1859 (*handing in the same*).

57. Sir Arthur Haliburton (through the *Chairman*).] Do you state that that was sent to the War Office?—I say that it was given to Colonel Campbell.

58. But not sent to the War Office?—I think he presented it to the War Office; I have no evidence that it went up to the War Office except from the action that was taken upon it. Colonel Campbell saw the War Office authorities and told the Committee of the men, that if they caused the list of names to be amended by taking out the names of all those men who entered after the 17th of December 1861, the War Office would consider the cases as promised by the Circular. This happened in 1870, but I have been actually told by Colonel Grove (who is the private secretary to the Secretary of State for War) that the men who entered after 1861 never complained till 1873, when the Act was passed; but I produce the original list of applicant's signatures of 1870. The War Office case assumed that all the men knew of the Circular, but did not say what publication there was; who told the men; whether it was posted in the shops with the regulations; whether the regulations were in any Order Book. Even in the Order of 1870, Colonel Campbell did not mention the Circular, but said no superannuation after 1859, without certificate, well knowing that the man had no certificate through the inadvertence of heads of departments. The men entered between 1859 and 1861, thereupon, as advised, forwarded a separate memorial, and, as instructed, under the same instigation from the office, as in Weaver's case, quoted the previously unknown Circular of 1861, in favour of their claim. In doing this they virtually separated themselves (as asked to do) from their colleagues who had entered after 1861, but the latter never abandoned their claim; they were glad the others got pensions, and it broke down to that extent, the want of certificates (this was before the Act passed). But the case of those excluded instead of being weakened, was in fact strengthened, because it was the want of certificates that stood in their way also. The result was the Act of 1873, which applied to the service generally, and gave the Treasury power, on recommendation of a department, to prepare a list of men without certificates up to 4th June 1870, and to schedule them for pension, if ever the claims should arise. It was all right at last, for every Government department; but although the Act said 4th June 1870, the War Office said 17th of December 1861, still abiding by their secret circulars. After the Act of 1873 the head of the Control Department of the Arsenal, put out a notice requiring a list of men entered without certificates from 1859 to 4th June 1870, and thus properly interpreting the Act. Mr. Dean, a witness, saw this, the men in the other departments on the 10th November 1873 memorialised the Secretary of State for War, to know why the other departments were not also asked for a list up to June 1870. The result of this was that the control notice was withdrawn. There was still a confusion as to the date at Woolwich. The Arsenal at last sent up a list of 790 men and no more, that is, of men entered up to the date of the Circular, which, I now produce (*producing the same*):—"Copy of Treasury Minute declaring certain persons to have been appointed to situations in the undermentioned departments between the 19th of April 1859 and the 4th of June 1870, without certificates from the Civil Service Commissioners through

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through inadvertence on the part of the head or heads of the departments, and without any default on the part of the said persons." The list includes the Admiralty, Bankruptcy Courts, Board of Trade, Exchequer and Audit Department, Foreign Office, Home Office, Probate Courts, and it goes on, War Office, Army Clothing Department (that is Pimlico), Control Department, Royal Carriage Department, Royal Gas Factory, Royal Gun Factories, Royal Gunpowder Factory, Royal Laboratory, Royal Small Arms Factory (Birmingham), Royal Small Arms Factory (Enfield), and sundry departments and other departments, making a total of 22 pages of names. The heading, refers as I have read it, to appointments between the 19th of April 1859 and the 4th of June 1870; but, in respect of the cases in the Arsenal, none were inserted who entered after the 17th of December 1861, which is the date of that Circular, but they did enter in this list some 790 persons, who entered after the Superannuation Act of 1859, and up to the date of the Circular of the 17th of December 1861. What I deduce from that is, that it is wrong to contend that the men were not entitled to superannuation at all after 1859, as first attempted by Colonel Campbell's order. He says that the Secretary of State has decided that workmen who entered the service subsequently to the passing of the Superannuation Act of 1859 without certificates are not entitled to benefit; but of their own act they had given pensions under the Act of 1873 to 790 men who entered after 1859. That answers a question which an honourable Member asked me some time ago. They draw the line, as we say, at the 17th of December 1861, in that particular branch of Her Majesty's Service, instead of letting it go up to the 4th of June 1870, as they have done in every other branch of the Service, and as the Act of 1873 said they were to do. As I was saying, the Arsenal at last sent up a list of 790 men, and no more. Of course, only a per centage ever arrive at pension, but there are now 524 men in the Arsenal that were not included in that list, because they entered between 1861 and the 4th of June 1870. That is the whole dispute. It will seem now that by the conduct of the Government itself, the first contention referred to in Colonel Campbell's notice (which I have produced), which was, that the Superannuation Act did not apply to Arsenal men after 1859, has been abandoned; for they have scheduled 790 of them who entered after the Act, and some of them have since retired with their pensions. It will also be seen that the Order of 1870 that Colonel Campbell issued, which says that the Secretary of State had decided that workmen who entered after 1859 without certificates from the Civil Service Commissioners, were not entitled to superannuation, has been over-ridden by the Act of 1873, which excused certificates up to 4th June 1870. I have, therefore, only the third point really to deal with, although I find the authorities when beaten on the third point, namely, want of publication, go back without any apology to the exploded arguments of, "never meant for labourers," and, "where is their certificate?" It is very annoying to be driven from point to point, from War Office to Treasury, and not get them to keep to the only point, "Was the circular known to the men?" I do not enter into the question whether a Circular should deprive a class of men of pension whose title was admitted prior to and under a Statute, although many think that also is a very strong point. The men rely upon the point of non-publication, because successive Secretaries of State, and heads of departments, including the permanent officials, have said, if the men did not know of the Circular till 1870, they ought to have their pensions when the time arrives. This is the issue, and I do not seek to complicate the question any further. In 1876 the case came before me, and I represented it to Mr. Boord, he took up the point that the Circular of 1861 could not stop the operation of the Act of 1859, and that a Circular of 1861, could not limit the Act of 1873, which I quite agree with, unless it had been recited or expressly named in the Act of 1873. It is a new proposition entirely to suppose, when you say in a Statute that men up to 4th June 1870, shall be excused from certificate, that any department should claim to qualify the relief intended, because of their own previous view in a particular case. Mr. Hardy, now Lord Cranbrook, in reply to Mr. Boord, took up the ground that the men were outside the Act of 1859, because they were paid market rate, and that full notice was given of the regulations. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman said the men

did not belong to a class included in the Act. The officials on both sides of the House being against him, Mr. Boord withdrew his motion on 2nd July 1877 without a division. Baron de Worms also was satisfied that the men had a just grievance, and renewed the agitation. So also when Woolwich became a separate borough, and elected me its Member, my aid was invoked, and I joined with Viscount Folkestone, Mr. Boord, Colonel Duncan, and Baron de Worms to take up the case. The case is very complicated if you wish to complicate it, but very simple if you stick to one point, "non-publication." I am not bound to prove a negative, that is, that the Circular was not made known to the men; it is strictly speaking, the duty of the authorities to prove it was known, if they assert it. The case is strengthened greatly by recent discoveries. First that the Circular did not arrive at Woolwich or Enfield until years after it is alleged the men understood its general effect. This, if true, disposes of the case, and I have no doubt of it. The evidence at Woolwich is circumstantial. First, Circular in Carriage Department not bound in the Bound Book, nor indexed, but pasted in since (I think that book should be produced; perhaps the Committee would ask for that). Second, there is no references to the Circular of 1861 in the Regulations for workmen at any time. Third, there is no Order referring to it issued at any time. Fourth, that for the first time in 1870 was it noted in the Regulations that superannuation discontinued to men entered after 1859 without certificate. Fifth, the 524 men all say they never knew of the Circular till Weaver's case in 1870, and so says Weaver. Colonel Milward wrote to the War Office that he thought the men knew of the Circular in 1861; but then he was not there in 1861, and took the report of those who were blameable for not publishing it, although I do not think they were if they never had it. I was told the same thing as to the men's knowledge by a very high official, Mr. Oram, the principal clerk, the one from whom Colonel Milward, no doubt, obtained his information; but he afterwards found that he had made a mistake of years, and wrote me so. I can produce the letter. Mr. Oram, I believe, told Mr. Secretary Stanhope that the men knew of the Circular. I saw Mr. Oram, and he said he thought they did know of it, because there was an Order issued, but a day or two afterwards I heard from Mr. Oram, saying that he had made a mistake, and the Order was not issued till 1870.

59. *Chairman.*] If we are to have reports of a conversation, we had better have it from Mr. Oram himself?—I should wish that Mr. Oram should come as a witness, certainly.

60. (To Sir Arthur Haliburton.) I understand Mr. Oram is to be a witness?—Yes, I think so.

61. (To Colonel Hughes.) Will you continue your statement?—Colonel Milward was at the head of the department at the laboratory, and Mr. Oram was the chief clerk. Colonel Milward wrote up in answer to say that he thought the men knew of the circular, but he did not go to the Arsenal till the date of his letter, and he must have had the information from Mr. Oram, and Mr. Oram has since told me that he made a mistake. Then as to Enfield, it is the same as at Woolwich, the men say, no knowledge, and no order or entry relating to the Circular is discoverable, but the following letter from General Dixon who was in command at Enfield at the time in dispute, throws additional light on the subject. There are two letters, one written to Lord Folkestone, and the other is written to Mr. Head, a local gentleman, who will be called probably. The original of this letter is supposed to be lost; the original of the other letter I have here

62. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy.*] Are these letters giving the views of Colonel Dixon?—Colonel Dixon being the superintendent at Enfield, that is to say, the Government head there, has written two letters referring to this question of the receipt of the Circular.

63. Is Colonel Dixon alive now?—No, he died a few months ago; I am obliged to refer to the letters, because I cannot call him as a witness.

64. That answers my question completely?—The first letter in order of date is to Lord Folkestone, and it is as follows: Woodgate, Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells, 29th July, 1887. My dear Lord Folkestone, I went to Enfield last Saturday, and after seeing the Superintendent, Colonel King-Harman, and his

chief

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chief clerk, who showed me the book in which the entries of communications from the War Office are made, I think I may fairly assume that the Circular of December 1861 was not received at Enfield until many years afterwards. It appears that it had been received at Enfield only in 1873. I have delayed writing to you until now as Colonel King-Harman promised to make further search in the records at Enfield, and send me word if he found anything which would show that this Circular had been received at Enfield before 1873. This morning's post brought me his promised letter, but there is only a notice of a copy of a War Office letter, dated 25th November 1873, on the superannuation question, which, he says, I could no doubt see at the War Office." That Circular in 1873, I think, the Committee would like to see.

Sir *Arthur Haliburton*.] I think that was only a circular calling for the names under the Act of 1873.

65. *Chairman* (to Colonel *Hughes*).] Is that the whole of the letter?—The letter goes on: "Evidently there is no record at Enfield of the Circular of 1861 having been received and its contents made known to the workmen either in 1861 or even in the following year. I could get no information on the subject either from General Alderson or from Mr. Engelbach, although I told them that my chief object in inquiring was to clear myself from the imputation of inadvertence in not having made known the contents of the Circular to the men concerned. Yours truly, *W. M. Manley Dixon*." Then there is a postscript: "When at the War Office on Thursday the 21st, I made full notes of the Circular of 29th August 1861, 17th December 1861 and 20th June 1873. The Circular of December 1861 is the one which the workman contend ought to have been communicated to them, and the fault of its having been withheld seems at present to rest with the War Office. The wording of the Circular seems to me to have restricted its application originally to the Royal Engineers and Barrack Department, and to the Store Department. It was possibly afterwards made to apply to the Manufacturing Departments; and hence the delay in its issue to those Departments. This is only a surmise of my own." I will put that in, as it is a very important document. The other letter from General Dixon is dated the 22nd of November 1887. It is written from Hornchurch, where General Dixon lived.

66. Mr. *John Talbot*.] This, you say, is only a copy?—Yes; but a witness will say that he made a copy. I have had a copy made from the original.

67. I think you said that the original was lost?—Yes, the original was sent to Lord Folkestone, who, I understand, took it to the War Office, and it is not to be found; but before Mr. Head, who received it, parted with it, a copy was made, and I have a copy in Mr. Head's writing, and Mr. Head will prove that he made the copy. The letter is as follows: "My dear Mr. Head, your note which is dated 12th November, was only received by me yesterday. The envelope bears the stamp of the 20th. I only mention this in case you might really have written it on the 12th, and have wondered at not receiving a reply. I wrote to Lord Folkestone a full account of my visit to the War Office to obtain permission to look over the books at Enfield, and of my subsequent visits to the Factory, and I told him that I could find no trace of the Circular of 17th December 1861, No. 729, having been received at Enfield until some time in 1873-74. Colonel King-Harman and his chief clerk assisted me in the search, and no trace of the receipt of the above Circular could be found until 1873-74, when Colonel Fraser seemed to have received one from the War Office and entered in the books. Yours very truly, *W. M. Dixon*." Then going on with my statement, Colonel Fraser at Enfield entered the Circular of 1861 in the Book in 1873-4; would he have done so if it had been been in its proper place in 1861? The Circular of 1861 is headed "Home and Foreign," and talks about stations. If successive Secretaries of State say, as they do, that the men did not belong to a class that were entitled, I can well understand it was not sent to the Manufacturing Departments at Enfield nor to Woolwich; why should it be; it did not relate to them they said? I suggest that this is the whole secret, that the War Office by inadvertence, did not send it in 1861 at all, to either Woolwich or Enfield, and it is further evidence that they did not send it, that no lists were prepared, as required by the Circular if it

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had been sent. It is suggested by the authorities that they cannot grant my request without an Act of Parliament. The Act of 1873 has already been amended in 1876, 1881, and 1884, on account of the admitted inadvertence and mistakes of heads of Departments (about every five years), although I think the authorities will find existing Acts quite wide enough, especially the one of 1884. I have also here the Acts of Parliament from 1859 onwards. I will also hand in the schedule of persons admitted to pension up to the 4th June 1870, which includes all (except at the Arsenal and at Enfield) up to 4th June 1870, to show that if it had not been for that Circular the men in the Arsenal would be in this list up to the 4th of June, the same as in every other department of the State. Another document which I should like to put in would be the minutes of the men in 1870, so as to negative the assumption of the War Office, which I was very much surprised at, that the men never applied till 1873 at all, whereas the fact was that they raised the question immediately Colonel Campbell issued the notice in 1870. These are the minutes of the men's proceedings commencing on the 1st of September 1870. Among these minutes I find, "Mr. Wakefield stated that Mr. Anderson (that was one of the heads of the departments) had told him when he started again that he would be entitled to a pension." I have plenty of witnesses to show that the foreman in the Arsenal and the men at the head of the laboratory and various other departments, told the men when they were engaged, if they behaved themselves properly they could hold their permanent employment, and could have a pension long after 1859. I think that shows that the Circular was not known to the heads who were engaging the men. Then there is the address by Mr. Anderson on the 10th of March 1860, which was after the Act of 1859.

68. *Chairman.*] Who is Mr. Anderson?—Mr. Anderson was at the head of the Gun Factories.

69. *Mr. Gathorne-Hardy.*] Is not what you are now referring to printed in the Parliamentary Paper containing correspondence between yourself and the War Office, which has been already put in?—I am referring to what was said by Mr. Anderson, who was the Assistant Superintendent of the Gun Factories, when he told the men that they were entitled to superannuation in 1860. My correspondence with the War Office is simply a short statement of that; I have here the extracts of the exact words he used.

70. *Chairman.*] We have it shortly here in this Parliamentary Paper; will you kindly put it in if you want it upon the Notes?—I should like to put this in as being the statement made by Mr. Anderson. This is an extract from Mr. Anderson's address to the workmen assembled in the Museum of the Department, 10th March 1860. The occasion being the presentation of a testimonial to Mr. G. Goldsack on his retirement from the Service. There were also present R. S. Fraser, Esq., Manager, J. Baker, Esq., Principal Clerk, and other officers of the Department. It is taken from the "*Kentish Independent*," 17th March 1860. "Mr. Anderson said one great advantage of being connected with a Government establishment, was the certainty that anyone who conducted himself with propriety might look forward to a comfortable superannuation. Everyone had the same chance before him as had Mr. Goldsack, although all could not hold the same situation; but it was beyond a doubt that there were many more places requiring good superior men than there were good men to fill them. Mr. Goldsack, as his merits entitled him, had received the superannuation of more than 150 *l.*; and the same reward might probably come to any one of those whom he was addressing if he strove to attain it, and endeavoured to deny himself some little in his younger days in order that he might ensure a happy old age."

71. Does that conclude your statement?—I do not want to leave anything out, although perhaps the Committee would allow me to be called again if I find I have left any material point out. I should like to add that I have been told by Sir Ralph Thompson at the War Office that he considered that the only question was the question whether the men knew of the Circular so that if there is any other point raised by the War Office it will take me somewhat by surprise, and I should want time to answer any case made on any other point they raise; that is to say, if the men were not entitled at all at any time in addition

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to what I have said to-day, I should like to have an opportunity to rebut any contention put forward by the authorities. But upon the question of the mere want of notice the same statement with regard to the want of notice is made at Pimlico; the men from Pimlico are just in the same position as they are in the three Government Departments, and I think the Committee will excuse me at the present moment from going into that; I have an immense quantity of correspondence from the War Office and different persons about it. There are, however, several answers to questions put by me in the House of Commons, and then there are some answers given privately afterwards to save trouble in the House of Commons, which contain some important admissions on the part of the War Office which I should like to put in.

72. Questions in the House of Commons certainly would be in order, but private questions I am not so clear about?—The questions were answered in that way to save trouble; I think they were on the Notice Paper, but this is the letter I had about them; “In reply to your letter of the 24th” (this letter is April 1888), “I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to return you, for your information, the printed questions forwarded to you, together with the answers to same.” Those printed questions were questions I put upon the Order Paper of the House of Commons, and then they were answered, to save trouble, by a letter from the War Office.

73. Then will you kindly put in those questions and answers?—The first question I put was, “To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in 1860 and 1861 the workmen entered in the Manufacturing Department after 1859 were held by the War Office authorities to be not entitled to superannuation under the Act of 1859.” The answer is, “In 1861 the Treasury decided that workmen in receipt of full market rates of wages were not entitled to superannuation under the Act of 1859.” Then the second question I asked was, “Whether” (assuming the Circulars were sent) “he can state the respective dates on which they were sent, and whether, and when, any lists of individuals or class of persons were transmitted as required by the first Circular to be done at the earliest opportunity after August 1861; and if sent nine years afterwards, what was the reason for the delay at Woolwich and Enfield.” The answer to that is, that “The Circular of 29th of August 1861, was issued on 5th September; no record is preserved of the exact date of the issue of the Circular of 17th December 1861, the distribution paper having been pulped.”

Sir *Arthur Haliburton*.] I might say that that is a mistake; we have since found the record; it had been accidentally put behind some other papers.

Colonel *Hughes*.] I should have been glad to have had that correction given to me before coming here.

Sir *Arthur Haliburton*.] It was only found a few days ago.

Colonel *Hughes*.] The answer goes on, “No claims have ever been received from the Manufacturing Departments, under the Circular of August 1861, either at the time or since.” As you know the Circular says they are to be sent at the earliest opportunity.

74. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Are these the answers of the War Office that you are reading?—Yes, but I understand now that they are incorrect as to the paper being pulped. Then my third question was, “Whether item 5 of the Regulation, referred to in the last-named Circular, has ever been acted upon at Enfield or Woolwich Arsenal, so far as requiring artizans and labourers to pass an examination in reading, writing, and arithmetic.” The answer is, “No. The men being in receipt of full market rate of wages, and therefore excluded from superannuation under paragraph 1.” That is going back again from 1859, though they had given these 790 men superannuation since 1859. Then the fourth question is, “Whether any difference of pay to artizans and labourers has ever been made in the said Manufacturing Departments under items 1 and 2 of the same Regulations;” the answer is, “No; all have been in receipt of full market rate of wages.” That means that those who had entered before 1859, and who will have their pensions, and those who entered from 1859 to 1861, and who will have their pensions, are taking the same money, and no less than the men who have entered since 1861. Then

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the fifth question was: "Whether he can state the date when particulars of cases for consideration were transmitted, as required by the last paragraph of the second Circular of 17th December 1861, and, if sent nine years afterwards, what was the reason for the delay at Woolwich and Enfield"; then the answer is: "In 1870. The delay was due to the Circular having been misunderstood at Woolwich. It was thought that names were not to be sent in until the claim to superannuation actually arose, and no claim could arise until the claimant had served 10 years." That answer seems to me to show that the Circular was not published. Then the sixth question was, "Whether after 1859, when the men at Woolwich worked short time, for instance, two weeks in three, there was any distinction in so working short time between the men entered before and those entered after 1859, and whether in any way any difference was made either in duties or pay." That question I should like to explain arises from the fact that men finding that they were entitled to superannuation sometimes worked short time, and would not take another situation, because they did not want to lose the superannuation, so that they suffered in lost time often, and remained out of employment, in order that they might not lose that which they thought they were to get in the way of superannuation. The answer with regard to that question was, "No distinction was made, and no difference in duties or pay." Then the seventh question I ask is, "Whether and when Colonel Milward reported to the War Office that he thought the men in the Arsenal knew in and after 1861 of the Circulars of 1861 affecting them." The answer is, "Colonel Milward reported in December 1870, that there was no doubt that all the circumstances were fully understood by all persons employed in his Department." Then the eighth question I ask is, "Whether Colonel Milward was appointed nine years after 1861, viz., in 1870, and had no personal knowledge, and on whose information Colonel Milward so reported." The answer is, "Colonel Milward was appointed Superintendent in 1870. It is not known on whose information Colonel Milward reported." The ninth question is, "Whether it was from nine to 11 years after the supposed issue of the Circulars before any official in the Arsenal or at Enfield acted upon them." The answer is, "Action was taken in the Royal Arsenal on the Circular of August 1861, on the day after its receipt, viz., 6th September 1861. No action was taken on the Circular of December 1861, until 1870." (That is another admission) "as explained in reply to Question No. 5." The 10th question is: "Whether the like delay" (that is, 9 or 10 years) "had occurred before the men were informed in their Regulations of the effect of the said Circulars." The answer is, "With one exception the Regulations of the Factories do not now contain, and never have contained, any reference to superannuation to which the men are not entitled. The exception is in the case of the laboratory. In that department a clause was inserted in its Regulations of 1870, stating that men in receipt of full market rate of wages were not entitled to superannuation."

75. Mr. Wiggan.] Did I understand you to say that the laboratory men were exempt?—They put it in in 1870.

76. Were they exempt from the Order?—No, certainly not; they would be affected in the same way as anybody else; but it was only in 1870 that they put it into the rules. Then my last question is: "Whether the Rules and Regulations for workmen were printed and posted in every department of the Arsenal on sheets for years before the bound books were issued; and in such sheets no mention of the said Circular was ever made." The answer is "Rules and Regulations were not printed and posted in all departments, but were in some of the departments. They contained no mention of superannuation, or of the Circulars relating to it, the men not being entitled to superannuation." They have given 780 of them superannuation since. There is a letter written at the same time as Colonel Milward's letter to the War Office in 1870 from Mr. Edmonds, who was in charge of the Gun Factories, stating that in his opinion the men did not know of the Circular. The letter from Mr. Edmonds is referred to in my correspondence, and as it rebuts the statements of Colonel Milward's, who says that the men in his Department did not know of the Circular; I should like to have that letter produced.

77. Sir Arthur Haliburton (through the Chairman).] Whom was it addressed to?

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to?—It was addressed to the War Office in answer to their inquiry. If Colonel Milward's answer is to be quoted against me, to say that these men did know of the Circular, though he was not there, I think, Mr. Edmond's answer to say that the men never did know anything about it should also be quoted in my behalf.

78. Sir *Arthur Haliburton* (through the *Chairman*.)] Can you give me the date of the letter?—It was in 1870.

79. *Chairman*.] Does that complete your statement?—There are other questions and answers quoted in "Hansard" on this subject which it might be useful for the Clerk of the Committee to show to the Chairman; and you would see then if they were important. I will hand them up (*handing in the same*), subject to any question you may have to ask; that is all I wish to add.

80. I understand from you that the men knew the circumstances of this case, and took certain action upon them in 1870?—As soon as Colonel Campbell's notice came out, dated August 1870, they held their first meeting.

81. We are now in 1889; can you explain why this very long delay took place, which adds much to our difficulty in investigating the matter?—That is quite true. It has been constantly gathering weight ever since; but I am the first Member of Parliament that has been able to get a Committee granted. I consider myself fortunate in getting a Committee granted.

82. Mr. *Walter James*.] Have any others of the Members for Woolwich applied to the Government for a Committee?—The first thing that Mr. Boord did was to move the motion in the House which I referred to, but it was opposed by the Government, and he did not divide against the Government upon that question.

83. How long since was that?—That was in July 1877; in 1876 the case came before me, and I represented it to Mr. Boord, and he took up the point as to the men being entitled to superannuation.

Sir *Arthur Haliburton*.] I have the whole of the correspondence with Mr. Boord in print here.

Colonel *Hughes*.] If the thing is to be fought out on the question that they were not entitled at any time, that is another point of view; and the obvious answer from that point of view is, why did you give it to the 790 men if they were not entitled? But my point is, why do you draw the line at the 17th December 1861 (the date of the Circular), which the men did not see when they entered.

84. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Was there any difference in the rate of wages paid to those who entered before and after 1859?—No; as I have already shown from the answers to questions, there is no difference at all in the rate of wages between the men entered between any periods in dispute, and those who are admitted to have superannuation, the men who entered before 1859 and the men who entered between 1859 and 1861. But I do not go beyond the 4th of June 1870, because it has been distinctly laid down that certificates were only to be excused up to the 4th of June 1870, and that was in the Statute; I will not attempt to go beyond that.

85. *Chairman*.] Have any of these men of the class you speak of obtained certificates since that date?—No, because since the 4th of June 1870, the men who have entered without certificate, have done so with their eyes open, knowing that superannuation was not to be conceded to them. All I would say is that the 524 men at Woolwich entering after 1861 and before 1870, should be put in the list in the same way as the men before 1861; so that the whole 1,200 should go together and have the benefit of the Act of 1873, and there should not be a line drawn in the middle because of a Circular which was issued and never heard of.

86. Do you claim that since 1870 no superannuations are granted?—I claim nothing for anybody after 1870.

87. You claim no superannuation for men entering since 1870?—No.

88. Superannuation has been done away with entirely since 1870, has it?—For labourers in the Arsenal since 1870, I have no claim whatever.

89. They get no superannuation if they have entered since 1870?—Not if they have entered after 1870.

90. Mr. *Waller James*.] With regard to the men who came between 1859 and 1861 at that time, the examination question was all in a state of unsettlement, was it not?—They were never asked to pass an examination. It was just as much unsettled after 1861 as it was before. From 1859 to the 4th of June 1870, as the Act of 1873 recites, the men were entered without certificate. I cannot make therefore any distinction as to any particular part of the period between 1859 and 1870. The Act of 1873 says, up to that time (that is the 4th of June 1870) men had been entered inadvertently without certificate.

90*. Does not that inadvertence apply in the sense that the terms of examination and entrance not having been settled, the heads of departments were unable to give the information to the men?—Whatever the cause was, the Act says, that up to the 4th of June 1870, the certificate may be excused. The Act of 1873 says nothing about the Circular.

91. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] As I understand, it practically comes to this: Your entire point is this, that the Circulars of August and December 1861 were not made known to the men at the time nor till long afterwards?—Not until 1870.

92. When the superannuation first came into effect the earliest case was Weaver's case?—Yes.

93. In Weaver's application for superannuation, he quoted the Circular; I know you have given an explanation, and it is subject to that explanation, but he did quote that Circular?—Yes.

94. The next application came from men who had entered between 1859 and 1861?—No, the application first came from these who entered from 1859 to 1870, and I have put in the list, but it was afterwards divided; they separated their cases at the suggestion of Colonel Campbell.

95. Again you have given your explanation, and it is all taken subject to that explanation. But as a matter of fact, these men who entered between 1859 and 1861, and who had obtained superannuation also, like Weaver, quoted the Circular for the purpose of obtaining their superannuation?—Yes; but I should like to read their petition.

96. I was merely getting at the fact?—Yes; but you must take the two paragraphs together. In quoting that Circular, this is what they say, "Your petitioners would beg to quote War Office Circular, 17th December 1861."

97. *Chairman*.] What is the date of this petition?—This would be after they had divided their application into two. The original of this is in the possession of the War Office; I presume the date would be in 1870 or 1871. After quoting the Circular they put in this clause, "Many of your petitioners have now served 10 and 11 years" (that would be in 1870), "and have never doubted but that they would enjoy those privileges always accorded to their class until the notice dated the 19th August 1870 appeared. They entered the service in that belief, and were always assured of it, it having been held forward in several cases to retain their services by the (then) assistant superintendent. Such well-grounded expectation as this they would humbly submit, Right honourable Sir, to your consideration."

98. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] That is not quite what I was asking; what I was asking was, is there any reference (you may qualify it afterwards in any way you like) in that document before you to the Circular of 1861?—There is.

99. I want the reference, if you please?—I will read it. May I read the whole petition?

100. I would rather have the reference first; if there is any qualification afterwards of course you can give it?—"But that had there been means appointed by which they could have obtained that certificate, and of which no mention is made in the Act supposed to exclude them, they would have gladly availed themselves of those means. Your petitioners would beg to quote War Office Circular, 17th December 1861. 'Should there be any men since the passing of the Act (19th April 1859) who have really entered the department on a clear understanding, or with a well-grounded expectation that they would, if they conducted themselves well, and remained in the Department, receive future superannuation. Sir G. C. Lewis will, on receiving the full particulars of each case, consider whether such case should be transmitted for the special consideration

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consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.'” Then they say, “Many of your petitioners have now served 10 and 11 years, and have never doubted but that they would enjoy those privileges always accorded to their class until the notice dated the 19th August 1870 appeared.” I admit they quote the Circular under inspiration, but in the very next paragraph they state they never had a doubt about their superannuation till the 19th of August 1870; therefore it is difficult to argue that they knew of this Circular in 1861, when there is a direct paragraph showing that they knew nothing about any dispute till the 19th of August 1870.

101. I am not arguing, I am trying to get at the facts?—The two paragraphs must go together.

102. Mr. John Talbot.] Can you tell us the number of men affected by this claim?—Five hundred and twenty-four in the Arsenal.

103. How many are there at Enfield?—About 150, I think, and a very few at Pimlico.

104. Chairman.] What other witnesses do you propose to call?—I propose to call the secretary to the men in 1870 to show that they took action at the very moment there was any doubt thrown upon their title.

105. Who is he?—Mr. Cairns. I also propose to call Mr. Deans, representing another department, and Mr. Lambert. I ought to have put in the books of the Rules and Regulations, which I have referred to, because I and the War Office differ a little upon them. I happen to have the books which they say were not available. These are the Regulations in March 1862 (that is, after the Circular), and nothing is mentioned about superannuation as being abolished, and here I have the books of 1872 in which the statement is made. If there is no doubt about that, there is that point in my favour, that in the books of 1862 nothing was said about superannuation being abolished, and in the books of 1872 for the first time it was stated: In some of these books after they are printed, manuscript alterations have been inserted, and the date of these alterations to conform to those Regulations can be shown.

106. Mr. Wiggin.] Was there any difference, or if so, what is the difference between the men engaged between 1859 and 1861, and those engaged between 1861 and 1870?—There is not the slightest difference of any kind so far as the men were concerned.

107. What is the difference suggested between 1859 and 1861?—The difference suggested by the War Office is this: that they wrote a Circular at the War Office in which they attempted to lay down certain rules as to the men having market rates of wages. They said that the market rates should be anything that anybody chose to work for. So far as the men are concerned there is not the slightest difference. That is the whole point. The War Office have put down for pensions 790 up to 1861, and 524 they have left out since 1861. I should keep them all in the same list.

108. Chairman.] As I understand there was an admitted lapse on the part of the War Office in the Regulations issued until 1861, and the certificates are admitted to be excused between the two dates, 1859 and 1861; is that so?—I hope you will not take that date as having anything to do with the question of the certificate, because the question of the certificate has never had two dates. The certificate has nothing to do with 1861; that is, the War Office Circular. The certificate is directly excused by Statute from April 1859 till the 4th of June 1870.

109. Mr. Gathorne-Hardy.] It is not a question of the certificate, that is excused by the Statute afterwards; but the difference between 1859 and 1861 results from this Circular, if this Circular was made known to the men?—Yes.

110. Colonel Nolan.] Have not the Arsenal authorities between, say 1857 and 1877 (not to mind the last 10 years) claimed that they are manufacturing in the Arsenal cheaper than the trade?—They have claimed that, and I believe they have proved it.

111. At any rate they have claimed it?—Yes.

112. In your opinion is one of the reasons which has enabled them to manufacture more cheaply than the trade been that they have had no strikes?—There have been no strikes.

113. There have been none since 1857, have there?—Nor for long before, I think; I do not remember a strike.

114. We may take it, may we not, that a strike would considerably disorganise any establishment of this kind, and interfere with its profits?—Certainly it would, because it is a manufacturing department, using special machinery, and it is extremely important to have no break.

115. Is it not supposed that one of the reasons why they have had no strikes either at Woolwich or at Enfield is, that they have given other advantages beyond wages, such as superannuation to the men?—They give sick-pay and medical attendance and superannuation, at all events up to the 4th of June 1870.

116. Is not that supposed to be one of the reasons which have exempted them from this trouble of strikes?—I have no doubt that comes in as one of the reasons.

117. So that we may take it that the Government have had an enormous advantage from this system of superannuation and medical attendance and sick pay from which they have reaped the benefit for the last 50 years in the way of avoiding strikes?—Yes, in the way of keeping their servants on and keeping them in good order, and keeping them punctual and up to time, and everything of that sort.

118. Is there not a general opinion among the workmen in the factory, and is it not practically accepted by the superintendents and managers of the different departments that the rate of wages in actual cash payments has been less in the Arsenal than is paid in other establishments of the same kind?—It has been less.

119. That you know from your own knowledge?—That I know; especially among the Engineers, and classes of that kind, it has been less inside than outside.

120. In fact, the workmen balance the somewhat lower rate of wages paid at the Arsenal and at Enfield against the advantages which they get in the way of superannuation and medical attendance?—Yes, the superannuation was the inducement which made them stay.

121. If people were led to devote their time to the work of the State you think that if superannuation was to have been taken away from them it ought to have been made very clear to all the workmen in the factories that that was so?—Of course it ought.

122. Did you ever go into the Arsenal between 1861 and 1870?—I have been scores of times.

123. Did you see this Circular posted up in the shops?—The Secretary of State has admitted that it never was posted up.

124. Have you ever seen it yourself posted up?—No.

125. Is it not usual in the Arsenal to post up every change in the regulations (as for example, that a man is fined so much for being five minutes late) in the clearest possible manner in the workshops, so that the men may see it?—There are notice boards in every department, on which everything affecting the men ought to be, and is supposed to be, posted.

126. Are these notice boards placed in the workshops at the Arsenal to an extent far greater than is the case in private establishments, and are they very conspicuous indeed, I may say, to an almost painful extent?—There are scores, and indeed you may almost say hundreds of them.

127. Do you think that a man would be entitled to say if he had not seen such a regulation that it did not exist?—A regulation would not be published without putting it upon the notice boards.

128. You are quite clear that you never saw such a notice yourself?—Quite, and the men tell me that they never saw such a thing, and the Secretary of State admits that it was not posted.

129. Unless it were posted on these boards there could be no important change made, could there?—It could be done in another way, but that is the only ordinary way.

130. Are not all the regulations affecting the men posted in that way?—Yes, and in those books which I have handed in. There is no other proper way except to put it upon these books and to put it upon the notice boards.

131. Mr.

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131. Mr. *Fenwick*.] Do I understand you to say that 524 men are affected at Woolwich by this change?—Yes.

132. Could you also give us the number affected at Enfield and Pimlico?—It would be about 150 at Enfield and 30 or 40 at Pimlico; 700 will cover everybody I think.

133. Do I understand you to say that the Circular supposed to be issued in 1861 was not posted in the book at Woolwich for that year?—It was not pasted in in that year nor for years afterwards. It has been pasted in years afterwards.

134. Can you say what year it was pasted in?—It would be in 1870, after the whole thing became notorious. I should like to have that book produced.

135. Sir *Arthur Haliburton* (through the *Chairman*).] What has been the inducement since 1870 to keep the men at the Arsenal?—As regards the leading hands the bulk of the men are entitled to superannuation, and they form such a large proportion, and especially the responsible proportion of the class of men in the Arsenal that anything like a strike would be utterly impossible without their assistance. What it may be later on when all these men die off I cannot say. But I may explain it is not proposed to do away with superannuation altogether at any time; superannuation will go on for the men who enter now to salaried offices.

136. Mr. *Wiggin*.] I understood you to say that since 1870 superannuation had been abolished?—That is as regards the artificers and labourers.

137. But those are the men who strike usually, are they not?—The men we are dealing with are artificers and labourers, and superannuation for them has been abolished since 1870, but there still remains a very large proportion among the leading hands who are looking forward to getting superannuation, who have the greatest possible inducement for securing law and order in the Establishment. What will happen later on when the other men become more predominant I do not know.

138. Mr. *Fenwick*.] Is it only for unskilled labourers that superannuation has been abolished, and not for what are only known as skilled labourers?—I should say that it has been abolished since 1870 as to all these men who did not obtain certificates; but up to the present moment the proportion of the old hands is quite sufficient, I think, to prevent strikes. Perhaps this is rather a question of general policy, but my own impression is that it is always better to give superannuation to all these men when you want to keep them all the year round, as is most important here, and that therefore there might well be superannuation in this Establishment, and in the Dockyards.

139. *Chairman*.] Have you any further point to which you wish to draw the attention of the Committee?—I should like to mention again Mr. Edmond's letter of which the date is, I believe, 1884. And might I ask that the Committee would give instructions that the book to which I have referred in which this Circular is pasted should be obtained.

Chairman.] If you will specify the book more exactly, and send us a request for it we will obtain it for you.

140-1. *Chairman* (to Sir *Arthur Lawrence Haliburton*).] I believe you wish to make some observations at once upon the evidence which Colonel Hughes has just given?—Yes, there are one or two little errors into which Colonel Hughes fell which I should like to correct. For instance, I understood him to refer to Lord Naas's Act of 1857, and to say that that applied to these people, and that stoppages were made from their pay which were abolished in 1857. That is entirely a mistake. The Woolwich Arsenal workmen were never entitled to superannuation. Superannuation is a technical term, and it is granted in certain Acts of Parliament. The Woolwich Arsenal workmen were not entitled to superannuation at any time, they were entitled to pension under the Ordnance Regulations; but that is a different matter. Lord Naas's Act was to relieve people entitled to superannuation from contributing part of their salaries to the Government, which before that went to superannuation. That contribution was abolished in 1857; but it had no relation whatever to the Woolwich Arsenal men. And then, again, I understood Colonel Hughes to say that the Government had excluded these men from superannuation.

tion. That is not strictly accurate. These Woolwich Arsenal men, as a class, have never been excluded from superannuation, and are not now excluded from superannuation, but they are excluded from superannuation so long as they receive the full market rate of wages, because the Government say that they cannot as manufacturers pay the men the full market rate of wages, and pay them superannuation in addition.

142. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Do I understand that you have no superannuation fund at all formed by deducting a share from the wages of the men as they have at large establishments?—There is nothing of that kind.

143. Mr. *Walter James*.] When you said just now: "The Government say they cannot pay superannuation, in addition to the market rate of wages," how did they make that intimation?—They made that intimation in the Circular of August 1861, which the Committee have had before them.

144. *Chairman*.] When you say that the men at Woolwich are not excluded from superannuation, do you mean, strictly speaking, from pension?—Yes, I mean from pension. But it is superannuation now, because now they come under the Superannuation Act of 1859. But, prior to that, they never were under the Superannuation Act.

145. Mr. *Wiggin*.] What is the difference between superannuation and pension?—Superannuation was given by Act of Parliament, and was technically called "Superannuation," as applied to salaries, in the higher class of civil servants.

146. *Chairman*.] Is not superannuation provided for by a deduction from the pay of the men?—These people get their pensions without any deduction from their pay. The people entitled to superannuation until the time of Lord Naas's Act in 1857 had a deduction made from their pay for superannuation, but that Act abolished all that. Now they are entitled to pension without contributing anything.

147. You say, as I understand, that these men are entitled to pension, and not to superannuation?—Before 1859 they were not entitled to superannuation but to pension, after 1859, when they became entitled to anything, it would be to superannuation. For the first time the workmen were brought under the Superannuation Act in 1859.

148. The difference, as I understand, being that superannuation is under Act of Parliament and pension is under the regulations of a Department?—Yes, the regulations of a Department with Treasury sanction.

149. These men are only entitled to superannuation if they have got a certificate, as I understand?—No, they are not now entitled to it, because they are getting the full market rate of wages.

150. Mr. *Fenwick*.] What do you mean by "the market rate of wages"?—The rate which prevails in the trade.

151. The rate prevailing in similar trades throughout the country, do you mean?—Yes.

152. Mr. *Wiggin*.] But these rates vary generally, do they not, among different manufacturers?—Yes, and in different localities. They are higher, I believe, in London than any other part of England. The option was given to the Manufacturing Departments to have a system of giving the men pensions, but the superintendents of the Manufacturing Departments said, "No, we want to conduct the thing on commercial principles, and we would rather pay the men the full market rate of wages in the same way as private employers do, and have no pensions." That is the reason why these men did not get a pension; it was not that the Government objected to it, or that they might not to-morrow be brought under the Superannuation Act.

153. Mr. *Fenwick*.] Perhaps it is too much to ask you to give the Committee off hand, but would you be able to supply the Committee with a statement of the rate of wages paid to the class of men for whom this superannuation is claimed?—Yes, I have brought with me the evidence given before Lord Morley's Committee on the Manufacturing Departments of the Army last year, or the year before that, and you will see there is a great deal of evidence on that subject. I have marked some passages which I should like to read to the Committee if they would allow me. I cannot give you the actual rates at the moment, but they could be worked out.

154. You

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154. You could supply that information to the Committee no doubt?—Yes; but the thing is a little complicated by the fact that they work on piece-work.

155. It would be sufficient for the purposes of the question I am asking you if you could give us, not the total amount, but the piece rate at which they work?—Yes, I daresay that could be got. Then there is another point in Colonel Hughes' evidence I should like to refer to with regard to the preparation of Weaver's letters. The impression conveyed to my mind by what he said was rather that some Government official had prepared for him his letters, and that really he knew nothing about it. As a matter of fact, however, the person who prepared his letter was like himself, an employé in the Arsenal. It was not done in any way by the Government, or by the head of a department. I suppose the fact was, this man was a friend of Weaver's, and he wrote his letter for him. I only do not wish it to be supposed that his letters were prepared in any way by the Government getting him to put into his letter what in fact appears now not to have been true.

156. Mr. Wiggin.] In what does the discrepancy consist?—I understand Colonel Hughes to say that Weaver was made to say in the application that he had done so and so. What I am saying is that he got some friend there who wrote the letter for him, and if that statement got in as Colonel Hughes suggests without his knowing anything about it, that friend of his must have put those words into his mouth. All I am anxious to make clear is that it was not done by the authorities in any way.

157. Chairman.] If such an allegation is made, of course we must have Weaver here to speak for himself?—Yes; I was only anxious that a wrong impression should not be conveyed with regard to the conduct of the Government in the matter. Then with regard to these Acts of 1873, and onwards, I do not know that I need go into that matter, because I think Mr. Gathorne-Hardy has pretty well cleared it up. The essence of the whole of these Acts was the inadvertence as regards the certificate, and although there are a lot of Acts none of them extend or alter the dates, and they do not admit men except the men who have failed to obtain certificates through inadvertence. There was a Bill introduced in 1872, which was a War Office Bill. That also spoke of the inadvertence, and that Bill laid down the date as the 16th of December 1861.

158. Has that since become an Act?—No; it did not become an Act; I have got a copy of it here, and can hand it in if the Committee would like to see it. It was a Bill that was withdrawn on second reading. It was brought in again in the next year. It was altered considerably, because in the meantime complaints had arisen in other departments, and therefore the Bill ceased to be a War Office Bill, and became a general Act, and the reason why the date was extended to 1870 was that in other departments the inadvertence had existed up to a much later period, and therefore they took a date which would cover the whole of such inadvertences. But it did not follow that the inadvertence in one department that might occur in 1868 was actually to bring in all the men in the War Office Department where the inadvertence had only extended to 1861. It is important to know what the inadvertence is in order to see why we limited it. The inadvertence was really this: certain men entered the Arsenal up to 1861, and up to that time the Government had really never decided what course they were going to adopt, as to the examination, or what the examination should be?—Then they decided that men getting the full market-rate of wages should not get superannuation.

159. Mr. Wiggin.] Would they have done so up to that time?—It was doubtful whether they would or would not. There were no such regulation.

160. Do you mean that some had, and some had not, superannuation?—No; under Clause 2 of the Superannuation Act it is provided that if any question should arise in any Department as to the claim of any person for superannuation under that Act the Treasury shall decide it, and their decision shall be final. That question did arise about the men at Woolwich, and it was referred to the Treasury, and after a great deal of discussion their decision was that men entitled to the full market rate of wages should not get superannuation. Those men had been rather led to think they would get superannuation. There was

the speech in March 1860, which has been referred to, made by Mr. Anderson, telling them that they would get superannuation, and their superintendents had rather led them to think it, and, therefore, the Government thought that it would be rather hard lines after these men had been led to hope that they would get superannuation not to give it. That was in 1861. The consequence was that they issued that Circular of December 1861, which said that as regards those men who had entered with well-grounded expectations that they would have superannuation, their claims would be transmitted to the Treasury for special consideration.

161. Was that Circular known to the men; was it published, or promulgated, in the workshops, or elsewhere?—I think I shall be able to give you some evidence to show that generally speaking it was known, in one Department it was certainly. But that Circular of December 1861 did not really apply to these men, so that whether they ever heard of it or not makes no difference. That Circular only applied to men who had entered up to that date. It promised them a boon, but it was a boon promised to those men only, and it had no relation whatever to men who entered after that time.

162. Mr. *Walter James*.] Do you say that the Departments of the Government were in a state of unsettlement with regard to the examination?—They had not settled the question really under Clause 2 of the Superannuation Act of 1859 as to the class of men in receipt of full market rates of wages, and they had not settled what the examination was to be, and so there was no means of giving a certificate.

163. When was that settled?—In August 1861 the question of the examination was settled; and also the question of the market rates of wages. So that, practically speaking, after August 1861, no man in receipt of the full market rate of wages was entitled to superannuation. Then a question arose as to what was meant by the market rate of wages; and the Government found there was great difficulty, because there was no fixed standard all over the country for the market rate of wages, and they had to settle that whatever wages the men chose to take must be considered the market rate of wages, because a man might, if he liked, refuse to take the wages and go elsewhere. It was quite optional for him whether he engaged himself or declined. There was no compulsion.

164. *Chairman*.] That would be fair enough if he engaged with the full knowledge that he was not to have superannuation, but if he thought he was to have superannuation, would not that induce him to take a lower rate of wages than he otherwise would?—No doubt it would if he thought that.

165. And that is the whole question here, is it not?—Yes, that is the whole question. To go back to what I was saying when that Circular of the 16th December was sent out, the intention was that the names of these people should be sent in, that their case should be inquired into, and that they should be granted Civil Service certificates. The Barrack Department, the Ordnance Store Department, and the Commissariat Department, all understood it; the men were examined, and they got the Civil Service certificates, and many of them ultimately got their pensions. The Arsenal people thought it only promised them the pension when the time came for them to get a pension, and they took no action, and therefore by their inadvertence, by not reading aright their circulars, these men did not obtain their Civil Service certificates.

166. Mr. *Talbot*.] You are implying in what you say now that they did know of it?—The superintendents did know of it.

167. *Chairman*.] You seem to go a step further than that, as far as I understand. You say that the superintendents did know, but it was through their inadvertence that the workmen did not know?—It was through their inadvertence they did not send in the names for the Civil Service certificates. The Ordnance Department, the Commissariat Department, and the Barrack Department, all obtained those certificates, but the Woolwich Arsenal did not. Then the Act was passed which said that where by inadvertence the men had not been supplied with the certificate, they should get their pension without that certificate.

168. What dates are you referring to. You say that by the inadvertence of the superintendents the men did not obtain their certificates?—In the early part of

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of 1862 they ought to have had them, in fact at any date after the 17th December 1861.

169. Mr. *Talbot*.] From 1861 until when?—From 1859 until 1861.

170. I thought it was from 1861?—No; the certificates ought to have been obtained then.

171. Up to 1861 it was undecided whether there should be a superannuation claim or not?—Yes.

172. After that it was that the superintendents knew, but you say that perhaps the men did not know?—No. At the end of that time it was decided that they were not to have it, but the Government said if anybody up to this time has entered who fully expected it, that person shall get it. Then they ought to have sent in that person's name, and he ought to have got the Civil Service certificate.

173. Did they?—They did not. That was the inadvertence which the Act of 1873 corrected. That inadvertence arose after December 1861.

174. Surely if the men say from 1861 to 1871 they had never been informed by the heads of departments, they were still in ignorance, and they entered into an engagement upon the supposition that they were to have a pension?—That is a point I will go into afterwards, and bring you some evidence upon.

175. *Chairman*.] Now we are ready for your statement?—There was one point about why the list of the names did not go to the War Office. That I shall be able to explain to the Committee. In a previous correspondence with the heads of departments it was shown that the whole of the men were in receipt of market rates of wages, and therefore there were no names to come in under the August 1861 Circular. That Circular asked them to send in the names of people who would claim superannuation under the Act, but it also limited it to people who were not in receipt of market rates of wages. The answer of the superintendents was, all our men are on the market rates of wages, and therefore they are not entitled. That was the case in every department except one, which was the Royal Carriages Department, which I will go into.

176. Mr. *Fenwick*.] Do I understand you to qualify your former statement with respect to the rate of wages. Do you mean that the rate of wages paid to the men is not correct?—No, the superintendents reported they were all on the market rates of wages.

177. Did I understand you to say that previous to that the market rate of wages was the rate of wages for which the men would consent to work?—No, the superintendent simply reported that the men were getting the same rate as in the market.

178. Mr. *James*.] Did I understand you to say that there was no case of inadvertence in the Arsenal in Woolwich?—There could not be after December 1861, because there was not the slightest intention to give it; there was no authority to give it after that date.

179. And the Act of 1873 was passed in consequence of the inadvertence in other departments?—Yes, the essence of the Act of 1873 is the inadvertence, and it requires a certificate to be given that the person, through inadvertence, did not obtain the Civil Service certificate. We could not give that certificate to anybody in the Arsenal after the 16th December 1861. Colonel Hughes quoted a speech of Mr. Anderson rather in connection with the claims which are now before the Committee; but Mr. Anderson's speech was made in 1860 to certain men who were in that department at that time. It was never made to these men, and it had no reference to them, and subsequently to that Mr. Anderson reported that all men were in receipt of the full market rate, and we must not take that speech of Mr. Anderson as relating to the present claimants, because it was long before they entered the service. There was one point about Colonel Milward's information which he sent to the War Office in 1870. Colonel Milward sent the information that the regulations were well understood in the department. In the War Office letter quoted by Colonel Hughes, it was stated that we did not know how Colonel Milward got his information except by assuming he got in the way any head of department would get it by inquiry of his clerks. I have found out since he sent for and had an interview and conversation with the manager (this will be proved to the Committee), and then he wrote that letter.

That is a state of things that must exist in any department. If the Secretary of State is asked a question in the House of Commons as to something which took place in the department two years before he came into office he must send for some-one, and he must get up his information, and that is the way Colonel Milward did. I have given you in a written statement of my case which the Committee have had before it. Is it necessary for me to read that, or shall I take the points of it and show what I am prepared to prove?

Chairman.] You may hand in the statement, and then make any remarks you wish upon it. (*The statement was handed in.*)

It seems to me the Reference to this Committee embraces four points, and I propose to say a few words on each of those points, so as to keep them separate, if possible. I have not got the Reference, but I think it is this: The first point is that the Committee are called upon to report the circumstances under which workmen entered into the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and other Government establishments between the 17th December 1861 and the 4th June 1870, have hitherto been refused the benefit of the Superannuation Act, 1859, and the Superannuation Amendment Act, 1873, and subsequent amendment Acts. Now that is a point of fact as to the circumstances under which the Government have refused it, and I propose to state to the Committee what those circumstances are as briefly as I can.

180. *Mr. Talbot.*] Have you mentioned the four points?—I will go on mentioning them all. Point 2 was, whether it was in the year 1870 or later that they were for the first time informed that a War Office Circular of the 17th December 1861, had assumed to suspend the Superannuation Act, 1859, as far as these men were concerned. The third is whether they are within the benefits of the Act of 1873, and the fourth is whether they ought to be within the benefits of the Act of 1873. Those are the four points. Now with regard to the first point, the Act of 1859, Section 2, provides that if any question should arise in any department of the public service as to the claim of any person or class of persons for superannuation under this clause, it shall be referred to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury whose decision shall be final.

181. That is in the Act of 1859?—Yes. A question did arise as to the class of persons employed on day labour in the Royal Factories and other War Office departments, and it was finally decided by the Treasury on the 29th August 1861, under the powers granted by Section 2 of the Act, that no man in receipt of the full market rate of wages should get superannuation in addition. I think I have explained to the Committee why that was, because practically the Government would be paying about 10 per cent. more than anybody else for corresponding labour. A question arose as to what full market rates meant. It was found impossible to name any given rates as a fixed standard of market rates, because wages differed in different trades, and in different localities, and varied from time to time in the same trade, and in the same locality. It was, therefore, decided on the 17th December 1861, that the rate of wages paid at a station at which men are found willing to engage themselves for employment must be taken to be the full market rate, it being optional with the men to accept or refuse such wages. Strictly speaking, no men of the class referred to, who joined the service after the 19th April 1859, the date of the Act, had under these decisions any right to superannuation under that Act. It would have been very easy for the Government as all the men engaged in the manufacturing departments were engaged from day to day to be discharged at a day's notice, to have terminated the engagements of these men, and to re-engage them on the clear understanding that they were not entitled to superannuation. I mean by that that the Government were extremely generous in 1861, and they were generous with other people's money. They gave these men superannuation, who strictly speaking, under their own decision under Section 2 of the Act were not entitled to superannuation. If they had not done that act of generosity they would not have had these claims which we are now getting. I merely wish to draw attention to that, that it was a boon which the Government took upon themselves to grant, which they were in reality not called upon to grant, because there was a simple

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mode which any manufacturer would have adopted, namely, he would have called the men together, he would have said, I am going to terminate your engagement; and, further, he might have given them compensation for loss they had sustained during the last two years in consequence of having a lesser rate than other workmen. However, the Government chose to be generous, and they said we will give all these men superannuation. The intention was that the names should be sent in at once, and that the men should be qualified by passing the examination set forth in the Circular of August 1861, that is, in reading, writing, and arithmetic. In all other departments except the Royal Factories that intention was carried out, and the men were examined in the early part of 1862 in large numbers. In the Royal Factories, by inadvertence on the part of the department, this was not done, and the result was that when a man who entered between 1859 and 1861, named Weaver claimed a pension it was necessary to pass an Act in order to enable the Treasury to give him a pension. The Treasury found they had no power to give him his pension, because he had not got the Civil Service certificate which he ought to have got in 1862 if the superintendents had properly understood the instructions given to them. The reason why the men who entered after 1861 have not been brought under the Act of 1873 is that it was never intended that the men entering after 1861 should get superannuation under the Act of 1859, and therefore there was no reason for certifying as there was in the case of men who entered before 1861. If those men have a claim on the Government for the consideration of this Committee, it is not a claim arising out of any act of inadvertence. The Government may have behaved very badly to them; they may have been disgracefully treated, but they have not been deprived of their superannuation through any inadvertence, and the inadvertence is the essence of the Act of 1873. Unless you are prepared to give a certificate to a man going up to the Treasury of inadvertence on the part of the head of the department he cannot get superannuation under that Act.

182. That does not touch the point about whether these men knew it?—No; that point I will deal with later on, this is merely the reason why they do not get it. They do not get it because we cannot give it to them. The second point was, whether it was in the year 1870 or later that they were for the first time informed that a War Office Circular of the 17th December 1861 had assumed to suspend the Superannuation Act, 1859, as far as these men were concerned. This reference indicates that there is a complete misapprehension as to the Circular it refers to. That Circular dealt only with the claims of men who had entered the departments up to the date of its issue, and it did not in any way relate to these men who entered after that date. The point that is taken about that Circular not being known to these men is, to my mind, entirely beside the question. It had no reference to them at all, and whether they ever heard of that Circular, or did not, has really no bearing on this case. Moreover, that Circular did not assume to suspend the Superannuation Act of 1859 to these men, or indeed to any men, but, on the contrary, it actually assumed to give the benefit of that Act to certain men belonging to a class which the Treasury, under the powers granted to them by Section 2 of the Act had, decided in the previous August were not entitled to superannuation; therefore, that Circular not only did not take the right from these men, but it did give the right to certain people who otherwise had no right. I think that the whole tenour of the Circular has been misunderstood. To avoid repetition I will deal with the question of whether the Circulars of 1861 were known to the workmen in my remarks on the fourth point, otherwise I should have to repeat what I have to say. Then there is the question, No. 3, of whether they are within the benefits of the Act of 1873. The reply to this almost repeats what I said in the first portion. The Act of 1873 was passed to restore to men who entered the factories between the 19th April 1859 and the 17th December 1861 the right to superannuation, under the Act of 1859, which had been forfeited owing to inadvertence on the part of the superintendents of their departments in not qualifying them in 1862 as they were authorised to do by the Circular of December 1861. There never existed any authority, and there never was any intention to qualify men entering after December 1861, and therefore there was no inadvertence on the part of the

the superintendents of the departments in not qualifying them, and it would be impossible therefore to grant them the certificate which is essential to bring them under the Act of 1873. That Act was passed simply to remedy the effect of an inadvertence, and could not be applied to cases where no inadvertence has occurred. If the present claimants were misled by the heads of their departments as to the terms of their engagements, and if substantial loss has been entailed upon them in consequence, which the Secretary of State does not admit, it might be a reason for Parliament granting them special relief, but it could not be a reason for bringing them under an Act passed to meet certain conditions which are entirely wanting in their case. If they have a claim on the public it would have to be met by fresh legislation, and be based on some other ground than inadvertence, which was the essence of the Act of 1873. If they have claims, therefore, those claims are not within the terms or intention of the Act of 1873. I do not say that we have not considered the claims that the men choose to put forward. I only say that we cannot entertain them. Then the fourth point is whether they ought to be within the benefits of the Act of 1873, and this will take up, practically, what is the whole case. This Reference as it stands would restrict the inquiry within very narrow limits, and it is for the Committee to decide whether they will go outside the absolute reference to them. I have treated it here as if the Committee would do so.

183. *Chairman.*] The concluding part of the Reference is whether these people ought to be within the benefits of the Act?—They cannot be under the Act of 1873; that is already shown. They must be under the benefits of some corresponding Act.

184. I think the Reference would include that?—It is only technical. The Reference is not worded as widely as it might be. Whether these men ought to be brought within the benefits of the Act of 1873 must depend on whether they are under the disability which the Act of 1873 was intended to remove. That disability was their not having being qualified for the benefits of the Act of 1859, owing to inadvertence on the part of their superintendents, and no default on their own part. Now I have already explained what that inadvertence was, and I do not think I need go through it again. The inadvertence was on the part of the superintendents in not, in the early part of 1862, seeing that these men were qualified by getting a certificate, and that inadvertence had to be remedied in 1873 by passing the Act, and that inadvertence ceased in December 1861, because there was no intention to give the certificate for anybody else. I would say here that there is no desire on the part of the Secretary of State to limit the inquiry to that mere technical point. If these men, without any default on their part and by some act on the part of their employers, have been misled as to their emoluments, and if the result has been that they have received less emoluments under the Government than they might as a class have received in private employ, there might be good grounds on which to base a claim for relief. This is practically the question before the Committee, but technically the reference does not cover it. I propose now to deal with the question on these two points. (1) Have these men without default on their part been misled as to the conditions of their service? (2) If they have been misled have they in consequence suffered loss which the public should relieve them from. That I take it is the whole thing the Committee have to consider. There is great difficulty in saying exactly what was done 28 years ago. Almost all the people in authority at that time are dead, but we have some evidence, and the first point of evidence that I would bring before the Committee is as to these Circulars. At one time we thought the Circulars were pulped, they had disappeared, but oddly enough, I was looking into a question the other day about Ceylon, and behind one of the Ceylon papers I found these papers which had been pushed away from the bundles belonging to the Arsenals, and had got behind Ceylon. There are long lists of names of people, and if you look at those, that is the list as it was sent out from the office, and that is a publication as far as the War Office is concerned. Those are the lists of the people they sent the Circulars to, and at the bottom, in some clerk's handwriting, are the words, "Ordered for circulation, 31st December 1861." Christmas intervened, and they were not sent out until the 31st.

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185. Will you state the names of the people with whom we are concerned?—The Departments of Woolwich, Enfield, Waltham Abbey.

186. Mr. *Talbot*.] Is there anybody alive who issued those?—No.

187. You are sure of that?—There is nobody alive at the Departments where they were issued. Then there was the Military Store Office at the Tower, at Pimlico, and at Woolwich, and there is a star opposite those, and underneath it says: "In these cases copies of all Circulars are supplied." The others that are ticked off do not get all Circulars, but only Circulars that are necessary to send them. Those particular Departments got them all.

188. Amongst those is the storekeeper at Woolwich?—All the Departments at Woolwich.

189. *Chairman*.] We have had those Circulars identified?—These are the Circulars.

190. What is the date of the first one?—The 29th August 1861; it was read by Colonel Hughes.

191. Have you the order to send it to certain places?—Yes.

192. Will you kindly tell us whether you can ascertain from that whether it was or was not sent to the places with which we are concerned?—From that there is not the slightest doubt that it was sent to all these places.

193. Will you kindly read so much of the paper as shows there is not the slightest doubt about it. It is noted in some way?—I am speaking now of the Circular of 29th August 1861, which Colonel Hughes read. This was ordered on the 29th August, and circulation lists were enclosed, and it was sent out on the 5th September 1861.

194. Will you kindly read any persons, in that list, with whom we are now concerned?—It was sent to the whole of the departments at Woolwich, Enfield, Waltham Abbey, Pimlico. Then with regard to the Circular of December 1861 that was sent to exactly the same people. It was ordered to be issued on the 17th December 1861, and it was circulated on the 31st December 1861. They took some time over that, probably on account of Christmas. It was stated that it was never received at Enfield, and I sent to Enfield for the book, and here is their book of Circulars, and I find that it is headed—"Arms, War Office Circulars from 1858 to 1869." I have looked through it, and I find that there are not a tithe of the Circulars in it that were issued, and all the Circulars that are in it relate to arms. It is quite evident to me that they did not keep any Circulars except those that related strictly to the details of their works, or they might have had them in some other book that has been lost, but there is no trace of it. I thought I would send to another small factory to see, and I sent to Waltham Abbey; Waltham Abbey appears to have been a much neater department than the Small Arms Factory. They bound up their Circulars very nicely, and there are both Circulars, August 1861 and December 1861, in that volume.

195. Are they inserted in their proper place?—Yes, and in a bound book.

196. Mr. *Gathornè-Hardy*.] The Enfield book is marked "Arms," and only Circulars relating to arms are in it, but you have not told us how the other book is marked?—The other book is marked "War Office Circulars." The only inference I draw from this is that it was clearly sent out and clearly was received, and some departments have got it to show, and others have not got it to show, but there is no inference that it was not received by them. There is also proof that in the Royal Carriage Department it must have been received, because they circulated it. As to this one of August, on the 6th September, the day after they got it, they issued a general order calling for names. They circulated that Circular.

197. Mr. *Talbot*.] Where is that, at Woolwich?—In the Royal Carriage Department at Woolwich, therefore it shows the Circular must have been received in that department. The one of August is the important one bearing on these men, because it is the one which says that men receiving the full market rate of wages shall not get superannuation. Now the regulation of August 1861 is really the important one as far as these men are concerned. That is the Treasury decision under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act. The Circular of December 1861, as I have already said, had no special reference to these men beyond defining what market rate of wages meant. The whole of the

rest of the Circular had no reference to them at all. It only referred to men who had previously entered. Why they did not know of it has no bearing on this claim. The real thing for them to know was with respect to the Circular of August, which laid down that men in receipt of the market rate of wages would not get superannuation. If they did know of the Circular of December 1861, they must have known that they were not entitled to Superannuation, because it clearly gave it to people entering up to that date only. If they never knew of it they could not found any claim upon that Circular, because they never heard of it. They therefore could not have thought the terms were extended to them, because practically they were not in a position to know anything about it if they never heard of it. Now the Circular of August 1861 was circulated in the Royal Carriage Department in September 1861, and I will call a witness to prove that in the Carriage Department in 1862 it was announced to the men as they came up for engagement that they were not entitled to superannuation. I will produce a witness to show that. I will show (which is a fact that we did not know until quite recently) that in their books of regulations the men used to sign when they were engaged; it was stated in manuscript in the margin that men were not entitled to superannuation. We cannot fix the exact date when that was entered in the book, but a witness will come who will prove that it must have been about 1864, certainly not later than 1868, because the man who was supposed to have made it died in 1868. It is supposed it was entered somewhere in 1864.

198. What was the Circular? - The effect of the Circular is that men entering, in receipt of the market rate of wages, were not entitled to superannuation. It was put down in a little book of regulations which existed in the Department. I will bring the book to show you. It was a printed book with this written in, and we can fix the date of that writing within some reasonable time. In 1862 it was told to the men as they came in that they were not entitled to superannuation. Now, with regard to the other departments, we have no evidence at all of any formal announcement of those Circulars. There does not exist any. But in a place like Woolwich it is quite impossible that for a whole year in the Carriage Department the men could have been told they were not entitled to superannuation, and yet that the other men would not know anything about it. These men were going out of the gates day by day with each other, they had their clubs, and that department in those days was more important than it is now, relatively. It must have been known throughout the Arsenal. I think, indeed, one point which Colonel Hughes referred to to-day shows you that they do know of what goes on in other departments than the Arsenal. He stated that when that Act of 1873 was pending, the memorialists stated that it was very hard that they did not get it, because in the Control Department the men got it. When we came to inquire into that we found that some Control officer, seeing the date of the Act, had thought his men were going to get it up to 1870. He did it without any authority, and the moment his attention was drawn to it it was withdrawn, but that spread throughout the Arsenal. The Control Department is not a manufacturing department, but they happened to be in the same enclosure. Therefore, I think, we must take it that what was so publicly announced in the Carriage Department must have been known throughout the Arsenal. I am in great difficulty about getting evidence, and it is quite natural that there should be difficulty. The men in Woolwich Arsenal naturally do not want to be called upon to give evidence which will affect a great many of their fellow workmen; one can sympathise with that; it renders it difficult to get at what was actually known, but I shall be able to bring a little evidence; it will be very little, on that point. Now I shall have to trouble the Committee about that evidence in Weaver's case. Weaver in his first letter does not say much about the Circular. He just refers to it. "I am confirmed in this by learning that a Circular was issued by the Secretary of State for War in 1861, to the effect that if there were any men who had entered the Department since the passing of the Act up to that time who were under the impression that if they continued in the service, and conducted themselves properly, they would receive superannuation on their discharge

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charge he would take their case into consideration.'” The answer to him, sent through the superintendent, was that he was not entitled, and that led to that Circular of 1870 of General Campbell. General Campbell was the superintendent, and when he got the letter saying, that Weaver was not entitled, and could not get a pension, he of his own accord posted a notice, saying that no men who entered after 1859 could get superannuation. That was the origin of Weaver’s appeal, and in this appeal of his, dated the 16th June 1870, he says, “When I entered the Royal Gun Factories in the early part of 1860, there were doubts amongst the workmen as to whether they would be affected by the Act of 1859, and those doubts continued until the Circular to which I alluded in my last letter was issued in December 1861, which seemed to clear away all doubts, and it was then considered certain that any who entered after the passing of the Act up to that date would, if they remained ten years in the service, and conducted themselves properly, receive future superannuation, and as not a word was said about having a Civil Service certificate it was considered that that those who entered up to that time would enjoy the same privileges as those who entered previous to the passing of the Act.” He still did not get his pension, because, in fact, there was the legal disability to get it. Then he appeals again, and in a letter dated September 1870, there is no day to it, he says, “Matters continued in this undecided state until the issue of the Circular of December 1861, when it was universally received as extending the limit of the operation of the Act till that date, and that all who entered up till then would be on the same footing as those who entered previous to the passing of the Act, but that any who entered afterwards should be deprived of its benefits unless they passed the examination.” Now that is all in Weaver’s case. Now I do not think it is open to that man, or the man who wrote the letter for him, to come here and tell us that they never heard of these Circulars, because if they had not, then that man was practically applying for his pension under false pretences.

199. *Chairman.*] What was the date of the letters?—The letters are in 1870. He always speaks of these things as the ground on which he was always satisfied he was going to get a pension.

200. *Mr. Talbot.*] Are both the letters written in 1870?—Yes, when he applied for a pension he based his claim on the fact that he had been so assured, and was quite satisfied. He says it was universally believed that the men were to get pensions.

200*. It may have been that he had not seen the Circular before 1870, and he may have seen it in 1870?—How then could he for 10 years have rested upon it?

201. *Chairman.*] The allegation on the other side is that that letter was dictated by some one also in the department?—That was a man in the department who must have known of the Circular. What I wanted to draw your attention to was that when it was issued it was universally received as settling the question. He does not say that he heard of it for the first time in 1870, and then it settled the question, but it always settled the question. I can hand you in that correspondence, if you care to have it before you. It is printed. You have before you the memorial which was sent in 1870. There was not very much in the memorial itself except that it alluded to the Circular of December 1861, and the memorialist did not in any way say that they had never seen it before. They did not say it was anything new to them. They speak of it as a thing that was known. They say, “Your petitioners would most humbly submit that these extracts, coupled with the opinion held by some of our superior officers, and the minute of Sir G. C. Lewis, dated 17th December 1861, may be deemed conclusive of the spirit and intention of the Superannuation Bill of 1859.” But these were petitioners in 1870, and it was of great importance to them to prove that they knew this Circular, because they rested their whole claims upon the promise that was in it. With the men who are now petitioning, the position is exactly reversed. It is very important for them to show that they did not know the Circular, because if they did know it they have got no claim, and therefore I think that these admissions made at this time must be given considerable importance to.

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They were made at a time when perhaps the effect they might subsequently have was not understood. Then there was a letter from Robert Turnbull who was in the employ of the Factories; he says, "That I was entitled to superannuation allowance was the belief of those who employed me was clear from the number of times the subject has been stated, and it has since been clearly laid down by Circular 729 of 17th December 1861, that those who entered with such expectation would have their cases taken into consideration" (this is the important point); "and there has, therefore, never been any doubt on this point, nor any occasion to raise any question upon it until the recent issue of the notice of the Secretary of State." That is the 10th October 1870, and this is one of the letters which accompany the memorial of 1870. He says there has never been any doubt about it. Then Mr. Jones, chief draughtsman in the Royal Factories, says, "I entered the Royal Gun Factories as a draughtsman on the 30th July 1860. I was informed by the then chief draughtsman (who, I may state, held an established position) that the low rate of remuneration was counter-balanced by the privileges of sick pay, pay with leave, and pension; this statement has been corroborated from time to time since by the heads of the department. I found nothing in the rules of the department bearing upon the subject, nor was I requested to submit myself to an examination by the Civil Service Commissioners, but I remained in the department as I had entered it, with the distinct understanding as laid down in War Office Circular 709, and confirmed by No. 729, 24,147-95, 17th December 1861, that I had been admitted to the Service in an established capacity, and would become entitled to Superannuation." Further on he says, "In conclusion, Sir, I beg to state, that having been led to believe myself secure in the respect of superannuation by the repeated assurances of my superiors, not only when I entered the Service, but since, I was bound to accept these statements of my employers as *bonâ fide*, and as my remuneration has ever been below the market rate, and especially as no distinction has ever been made between the pay of those entered previously to April 1859, and that of those engaged since that date, these facts, combined with the Circulars referred to, induced me to reject other appointments, and to remain in the department at a remuneration considerably below that awarded to similar positions in the commercial world." There again, he says that the knowledge of these Circulars had during that period satisfied him of his position, and yet we are told that these Circulars never reached the Arsenal and were never known. There is another letter from Mr. Price. He says "With such assurances," that is the assurance that he got from his superintendents and others, "oft repeated from the highest authorities with whom I could treat, I rested in the firm belief that my claims are beyond question. Under such circumstances it is with perfect confidence I submit my case for confirmation, more especially as the pledges of my superiors were distinctly and to me conclusively endorsed in the letter of Sir B. Hawes 729 ²⁴⁷/₉₅, 17th December 1861, my ground therefore for setting forth my claim to the terms hitherto extended to persons of my class." Then he gives four grounds, and the third is, "The Circular of Sir B. Hawes having confirmed the statements of my superiors, with testimony of the very highest authority." Again he says that he had been content to give up better employment on getting the assurance of these regulations. Then there is Mr. Edmonds. These are letters which they have sent in which were attached to the memorial on which the Act of 1873 was based. Mr. Edmonds says, "I have never had any reason to doubt that if I conducted myself well, I should, at the proper period, be recommended to receive the benefits of a superannuation allowance, the assurances I had received being also corroborated and confirmed by the War Office Circular of 17th December 1861." Then there is Mr. Thomas Foggie, who says, "I therefore understood that if I conducted myself in a satisfactory manner, I would be recommended at the proper period for superannuation allowance, this belief being strengthened by the War Office Circular, No. 729, dated 17th December 1861." Those are the letters from the men whose memorial and whose letters induced the Treasury to pass the Act, as far as the War Office was concerned, of 1873. Then there is a letter from General Campbell. If those statements that are made there were not true they practically got a concession

from

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from the Treasury under an erroneous statement of the facts of their case. We said these men have always had the fullest assurances that they were going to get this thing, we have issued our Circulars promising it. Now they come and say, we never had that assurance because we never heard of the Circular which gives that assurance until 1878. I do not think we can accept that evidence. I think we must take it as it was given in 1870 before it was known that a knowledge of those Circulars would bar the claims of the present men. General Campbell, on the 23rd November 1870, says, "It is clear that the Superannuation Act of 1859 was not made known to the men of this department, and that those who joined the department between April 1859 and December 1861 (when it was clearly explained that men receiving the full market rate of wages would not be entitled to superannuation), have a claim for consideration." He does not say how it was clearly explained, but he does say, as a matter of fact, that it was clearly explained; and in the last sentence he says "I did not join the department until 1st October 1863, so these claims do not affect men engaged by me." The inference I draw from that is that they knew all about it then, and therefore they had no claims.

202. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] Is that the same gentleman who writes the letter of 25th July 1870 on page 4 of this correspondence relating to Weaver which you have handed in to us?—Yes, that is the same. Unfortunately I cannot call General Campbell, he has been ill for three or four years, and therefore it is impossible that his evidence could be taken. These references, showing a knowledge of the Circulars of 1861, used to strengthen the claims made by the men of 1859–61, cannot be ignored now that ignorance of that Circular is thought essential to strengthen the claims of the men of 1861–70. The fact of the matter is, it has been a two-edged weapon; it was absolutely essential for the men of 1859–61 to know it, and it is absolutely essential to the men of 1861–70 not to know it. I do not think it possible that the one set of men could have known it, and the other set of men did not know it. There is the statement of General Campbell: "I think, however, that it is only a matter of justice to those men who are at this time in the department, and were also at the date of the Circular in question, to submit their case. From a conversation with some of them who are foremen, they state that they considered that what was before doubtful, was really removed by the issue of the Circular of the 17th December 1861; and they trust that it may be so considered." That is dated July 1870. Here is Colonel Milward's letter: "I cannot trace that any Circular was issued, but there is no doubt that all the circumstances were and are fully understood by all persons employed in this department. No application has been made, as I am careful not to make any inquiry, as if I did so I have no doubt numerous claims would arise." He was told he need not inquire in departments where no claim was made. I will prove that Colonel Milward had a conversation with his manager, who is a man in contact with the men; not his chief clerk, as Colonel Hughes suggested, but his manager, and then he wrote that letter on the information obtained from the manager. There is another point connected with this which I think you ought to have. These men come to the Arsenal to engage, and if any one of them had ever asked whether he was entitled to a pension he would at once have found out that he was not; and it seems a very odd thing that many thousands of men should come to that Arsenal, because there are thousands employed there, and not one of them should ask whether he is entitled to superannuation or not. Had they asked there would have been no doubt in their mind, because the superintendents clearly know. With regard to the memorial of 1870, the names of the men who entered after 1861 never came to the War Office, and the War Office never knew that such a transaction had taken place until 1884. The memorials which came to us had only the names of the men that joined before December 1861, and General Campbell says, that it had been told to the men entering after December 1861, that it was useless their joining in the memorial. We will assume that he did it; that he intimated to the men that it was no use their signing a memorial, because they were not in the same circumstances as the other men. The consequence was they withdrew their names from the memorial, and the memorial went to the Treasury without the names of men entering after 1861. The men were evidently satisfied with that explanation, which practically gave effect to the Circular of

December 1861 by not admitting people after that date, and they withdrew their names. It has been suggested that they withdrew their names in order not to endanger the case of men who had entered before December 1861, or, as it is stated, with a distinct understanding that the men of 1859-61, if they succeeded, were to turn round and help the men who entered after 1861. Such a course would have been so manifestly improper, an attempt in reality to deceive the Government as to the extent of the claim that was made upon it, that I will do the men the credit to suppose that they were never actuated by this motive. Even if it might have been done as far as a mere petition was concerned, it is not conceivable that they would have refrained when the question got beyond the point of memorial, and when the Bill of 1872 was before Parliament, that Bill which I have here, and hand in, limited the date to 17 December 1861, and that Bill got as far as the second reading. Therefore if those men who entered in 1861, had at that time refrained from putting forward their case, and if the Bill of 1872 had passed, they would have been excluded for ever from superannuation, because the Bill limited them to the date 1861.

203. Can you give me the title of that Bill?—It was called “A Bill to Amend the Law relating to the Grant of Pensions and other Compensations to certain Workmen who entered the permanent Civil Service of the War Department between the passing of the Superannuation Act and the 17th day of December 1861.”

204. By whom was it introduced?—The names are on the back. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. Secretary Cardwell. That Bill was withdrawn. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman thought that if the men were to get anything they ought to get the terms of the Superannuation Act. This Bill only proposed to give them their old Ordnance pensions, which were considerably less, and on that ground it was withdrawn, and next year they brought in the Bill of 1873. That Bill did not terminate with the date of 1861 as this did, but it terminated at a different date, and the reason as I have explained was that there were inadvertencies in other departments which extended long after 1861, and there was an Order in Council which said that no men should get paid without a Civil Service certificate, and the consequence was that if he did not get paid he could not get a pension. The operation of that Act was limited to the 4th June 1870. They did not intend thereby to give superannuation to men who had no claim to it, but only to people who had a claim to it, who, through inadvertence had lost their claim. As to the statement I have just made about the men who agreed to withdraw their names in order to help the others, with the understanding that the others were to turn round and help them, I am afraid it is quite clear they are exactly in the same position again. In a deputation that attended on Colonel Hughes, it is suggested if these men succeed then their success shall be used as a lever to help the men who entered after the 4th June 1870. I cannot see if this claim is put forward that you can do otherwise. The main ground was that the men who entered in 1861, and these men, got exactly the same wages, and therefore it is very hard to refuse these men superannuation, because they are getting the same wages as the men who get the superannuation. The man who entered on the 5th June would be exactly in the same position as the men who entered before the 4th June, and if you stop his superannuation he would say, “The man who entered before the 4th June is getting 100 *l.* a year and his superannuation; here am I entered on the 5th, I am getting 100 *l.* a year and no superannuation.” The fact of the matter is that that is a difficulty incidental to any change of system. Whenever you change a system you continue vested rights, and the man who has vested rights gets more than the other man who came in subsequently.

205. Mr. *Talbot.*] Because the other man has got the notice?—Because the other man has got the notice.

206. Colonel Hughes told us he had nothing to do with anybody after 1870?—That was not quite clear on that deputation. There was a statement there that if these men succeeded it would be a lever used for the men who entered afterwards.

Colonel *Hughes.*] That was in 1870.

Witness.] No, it was two or three years ago. The men whose case we

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we are now considering never petitioned until the Act of 1873 had passed, and then they did petition us, and I will hand in their petition. It will be seen from these memorials they sent in they did not base their claims on account of not having heard of these Circulars. They quoted the Circulars, but did not say they had never heard of them. They did not base their claim on that. That has been entirely imported into this case since they originally made their claim, and they made their claim simply on the ground that the men who were getting superannuation were getting exactly the same wages as they did, and the Act had extended the whole thing to 1870, and it was only the War Office which had given an interpretation to that Act much more narrow than the Legislature intended.

207. Mr. Wiggins.] When was that claim made?—Immediately after the passing of the Act of 1873. If it is not troubling the Committee too much, I would read a few paragraphs from that to show that it is true. You will see in the first one they give their reasons: "Firstly, because after the most careful reading of the said Act of 1873, we are unanimously of opinion that it was the intention of the framers of that Act, and was also so understood by the Members of the Houses of Parliament, by whom the Act was passed, that all these who had entered the Service between the passing of the Act of the 19th April 1859 and the 4th June 1870 should be entitled to all the benefits of the Act of 1873. Secondly, whereas the preamble of the Superannuation Act Amendment Act, 1873, confesses that it is unjust that the persons appointed to established situations in the Civil Service since the passing of the Superannuation Act of 19th April 1859, without having had the means provided for them by which they could procure a Civil Service certificate; and whereas the Superannuation Act Amendment Act, 1873, professes to remove such injustice, so far as those are concerned who were so appointed previous to the 4th June 1870." That is not a very exact statement of the Act. The Act only professes to remove the disability of the men who by inadvertence had not obtained a certificate. It did not profess to give it to every man who had not got the certificate. "Thirdly, no arrangements existed in this department for any such examination, nor were we ever invited or requested to prove our fitness by the test of an educational examination." That is practically true, because there was never any intention of qualifying them. "Therefore we, the undersigned, beg to submit that there is no just ground for limiting the operation of the Superannuation Act Amendment Act, 1873, to the date of the 17th December 1861, but that on the contrary the benefit of the Act should be applied in its entirety, viz., to the date contained in the Bill, which is on the 4th June 1870. Now, as pointed out there, they have misunderstood what was the object of the Act, which was the inadvertence. We can only extend the Act up to the period when the inadvertence ceased; we cannot extend it to any other date. Then in the next one they say, "That such admission without a certificate is an inadvertence under the 'Superannuation Act Amendment Act, 1873,' without any default of your memorialists. That neither of the Acts refer to any certificate being obtained after appointment, and although minutes may have been issued, with which we were willing to have complied" (I suppose that relates to the Circular of 1861), "but had no opportunity, yet the fact is that the certificate under the Act is a certificate before appointment, which of course nothing can now obtain." Then they also, in the third one, say: "Because if the Act of 1873 is to be just, it must be equitable in its application, which is not the case, seeing that the heads of the Control Department have adopted the view which, we submit, is the correct one, thus giving the workmen in that department the benefit of the extension of which we are deprived." I pointed out that was an error on the part of the officer, which was corrected, and they did not get it. If you look at the last one on page 6, they say, "Fourthly, that it was clearly the intention of the framers of the 'Act of 1873' that its application should extend to the date named in the 'Act,' viz., the 4th of June 1870, and that the only authority for the restriction imposed is a War Office Circular, issued by Sir G. C. Lewis, and which the late Government acted upon." That was the basis of the agitation that has continued from that day to this; that is the basis of

the claim of these men now before the Committee, and you will see that there is not one word in it about their never having heard about these Circulars. I have explained about that date, I have satisfied the Committee why the date of the 4th June 1870 was put in. It is not a fixed date.

208. *Chairman.*] I understand the claim is to cover a variety of lapses arising in various departments?—Yes, but by inadvertence. It will not take in the man who has a claim founded on anything else but inadvertence, that is all it professes to remedy. Now supposing for the sake of argument we assume that these men never heard of the Circulars of 1861, that in fact they never were sent out, I think it must be imputed to them, as it is imputed to everybody I believe, that they must have known of the Act of 1859. Every man is supposed to know the law. If they had known that law they would have known that they required a Civil Service certificate on entry into the Service, and therefore it was their business to get that Civil Service certificate. I think we cannot trace that any of them ever asked for it. If they had asked for it they would at once have been told they were not entitled to it, because they were getting the market rate of wages.

209. *Mr. Talbot.*] That would only show they were ignorant of the law?—No man has a right to plead ignorance of the law. The Act of 1873 says “without default on their own part,” and without inadvertence. I maintain there was default on their part in not seeking to qualify themselves. There clearly was no inadvertence on the part of the superintendents in not qualifying these men, because there was no intention to do so, and there was default on their own part in not seeking to qualify themselves under the Act if they thought they were entitled to the benefit of it. The alleged ignorance of the Circular of 1861 has been imported into this case since the passing of the Act of 1873, and even if it were assumed for the sake of argument that these men never heard of the regulations of 1861, and if it were admitted that they need not have known of the law and its requirements, the question under part 2 of this argument arises, have they by their service under the Government, and in consequence of their ignorance of the law and the regulations, suffered losses which they would not have suffered had they been in private employment, and is that loss of a character and extent requiring legislation to remedy?

Thursday, 23rd May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir Joseph Bailey.
Mr. Fenwick.
Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.
Mr. Walter James.

Colonel Nolan.
Mr. John Talbot.
Mr. Wiggin.

SIR JOSEPH BAILEY, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

Sir ARTHUR LAWRENCE HALIBURTON, K.C.B., called in; and Examined.

210. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you wish to refer to one of the answers given by Colonel Hughes on the last occasion?—Yes. At Question 27 Mr. James asks, “Why was not the Circular issued and published,” and Colonel Hughes says, “Sir Ralph Thompson, in one of his letters, says to me that the reason it was not published was because no man could have a claim under it till 10 years afterwards.” I said at the time, “I think that Colonel Hughes must have misunderstood Sir Ralph Thompson’s letter,” but I had not the letter before me then. Afterwards the letter was produced, but then I had not the notes of what had previously passed, and therefore I could not pursue it then; but now, if you will turn to page 9, you will see, in the middle of the page, Sir Ralph Thompson’s letter, which says, “The real reason why applications were not sent in by the superintendents was that they were under the impression that such a proceeding was unnecessary.” It does not state that the Order was not published; it merely states that it was not acted upon in the way of sending in applications; that is an important difference.

211. *Colonel Nolan.*] Do you mean to say that it would be published if the superintendents knew it but none of the workmen knew it?—The question was as to whether it was published by the War Office.

212. The question was whether it was issued and published, and the answer seems to be that it was not published?—I may point out that the answer to Question 27 is given by Colonel Hughes, not by myself.

213. I want to know exactly what distinction you draw between its being “published” and “issued”?—The question of issue does not arise; it was published, and it was issued.

214. How was it published?—It was published in the printed form, and circulated to all the departments.

215. And to all the men?—No; it is sent to the heads of departments; that is what is meant by being published.

216. Do you say that when a letter goes to the superintendent of one of these three departments at Woolwich Arsenal, that amounts to publication; do not many confidential documents, and indeed some of the most secret documents, go so far and no farther?—The question was whether a certain thing was sent to the departments; Colonel Hughes infers from certain letters that it was not sent; but I say yes, it was sent, because we published it, and we circulated it, and I produce proof of that.

217. You have proved that you did your duty at the War Office in sending it to the three departments, but you would surely not apply the word publication if you have merely sent it to the superintendents who may have charge of several thousands of workmen?—It is a separate question whether they sent it to the men; but I am talking about the publication of the Circular by the War Office; we never communicate except through the heads of departments.

218. Do you regard that as a communication?—So far as the War Office is concerned certainly.

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219. You say that a document sent to the heads of departments is published?—Yes, so far as the War Office is concerned.

220. *Chairman.*] I think the Committee quite understand what you say; you did publish it to the heads of departments, but you do not say whether they did or did not publish it to the men?—I quite admit that most of them did not publish it as a circular.

221. *Colonel Nolan.*] If these letters were marked “Secret and Confidential,” would you still call that a publication?—It would be still publication, so far as the heads of departments are concerned; but this was not “secret and confidential,” and that question does not arise here.

222. But does it not often arise that confidential letters are so sent?—Yes, but not in the form of a printed document like this. I only wanted to show that Sir Ralph Thompson’s letter did not contain the words imputed to it.

223. *Chairman.*] You admit that it was not not published to the men?—As a Circular it certainly was not in most cases.

224. Except in certain cases, which you are going to deal with presently, it was not generally published to the men?—In effect it was not published as a circular.

225. *Colonel Nolan.*] Do you use the word “publication” not in the sense in which ordinary people of the country would understand it, but in a special sense in which the War Office understand it; do you qualify your answer in that way?—No, it is published in the ordinary sense of the word, just as any Army Circular is published. It is printed and circulated to the people who ought to get it; that is the publication. It may be the duty of those people to circulate it to other people, and they may neglect that duty, but that does not affect the War Office publication.

226. That may be “publication” as understood by the War Office, but not as understood by ordinary people in a court of law?—I cannot say how it is understood in a court of law.

227. Would people in the ordinary ranks of life call that publication?—Yes, if it is sent to the authorised people I think it is publication, but the point is not very important.

228. *Mr. Wiggin.*] What is the date of the Order which you say was received and not published to the men, to any extent at any rate?—The 17th December 1861.

229. *Chairman.*] Is there any other point you wish to refer to in the Evidence?—There is one other small correction I would like to make, though perhaps it is a point of evidence which I ought to take separately, it is at page 10, Question 58; which referred to the question whether the names of these men were signed to the memorial that went up to the War Office. Colonel Hughes says, “I have no evidence that it went up to the War Office except from the action that was taken upon it. Colonel Campbell saw the War Office authorities, and told the committee of the men that if they caused the list of names to be amended by taking out the names of all those men who entered after the 17th of December 1861, the War Office would consider the cases as promised by the Circular.” Now, there is nothing whatever to show that Colonel Campbell ever came to the War Office, or consulted them about it; there is no record whatever to show that Colonel Campbell ever told the War Office; and the fact that it came quite as a surprise in 1884 upon the War Office rather shows that he never came and reported it.

Colonel Hughes.] I should ask to be allowed to show why I made that statement, and to put in War Office evidence that that was so.

Chairman.] You will have the opportunity of doing so when Sir Arthur Haliburton has concluded his evidence.

230. *Colonel Nolan.*] Was it not usual for Colonel Campbell to come up once or twice a week to the War Office and talk verbally over all matters connected with the working of his department?—I asked that question, and I was told that Colonel Campbell came very seldom to the War Office.

231. Are you certain that Colonel Campbell came very seldom to the War Office?—I was told so by the gentleman who is chief clerk in the department; but I do not know it as a fact.

232. Is

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232. Is that Mr. Englebach?—Yes; I asked him whether Colonel Campbell came very often, and he said he came very seldom.

233. That would be in the Director General of Artillery's department?—Yes.

234. Would there be any other officer besides in that department?—No; there was Mr. Godley, and a variety of people; the office was differently organised than. It would be what was called the director of stores in those days.

235. Mr. Englebach used not to sit in that same room, and he might not see him when he came, I suppose?—He might have come, but there is no evidence of it.

236. Mr. Englebach being in a different room might have had to be sent for or else he would not see him?—Yes, or he might be away on leave of absence.

237. Mr. Englebach did not sit in the room of the Director of Artillery in those days, did he?—No, and he does not now.

238. *Chairman.*] I understand a Paper has been put into your hands by Colonel Hughes; we will have the Paper put upon the Notes if you think it refers to this matter, and you can make any remark upon it?—This is dated 1884; it does not bear upon this point.

239. If Colonel Hughes wishes to put it in we will take it later; now will you kindly continue your statement if you wish to say anything further?—I had got to the point of whether these men could now contend that they had never heard of the Circular of 1861, assuming the fact to be so; and in connection with that, I thought that I would hand in a memorial which the 1859-61 men addressed to the Treasury in 1872, in which they referred to the Circular, and also a memorial which they addressed to the War Office in 1872, which I will supply afterwards, which I do not think I put in the other day. In the memorial to the Treasury, they say: "These facts, together with the repeated assurances from their assistant superintendent, and the Circular 729, of Sir G. C. Lewis, dated 17th December 1861, bore out the conviction that they would in time become entitled to the same benefits as their fellow workmen." That was another document in which they referred to that Circular. That is the memorial sent to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, dated 21st May 1872; I have not got the official answer to it, but the answer to it was that any representation of that sort must be sent to the Secretary of State for War. I would also hand in the memorial which they sent to the Secretary of State for War before this time; they sent it in to the War Office in February 1872. There is one other thing I omitted to put in on the question whether these things were known in the Arsenal. In 1884, Mr. Brand, Surveyor General of Ordnance, received a deputation from the Royal Factories, and the question was then referred to Sir Frederick Campbell, who had retired from the service, and he says: "I did not assume the duties of Superintendent, Royal Gun Factory, until 1st October 1863. I, therefore, am not aware whether the Circular of 1861 was promulgated in the Department. When I joined in October 1863, it was clearly understood that the men received the market rate of wages, and had no claim to superannuation. I would refer to my Minute, dated 23rd November 1870, on this subject"; that Minute you have already had put in.

240. Colonel *Nolan.*] There is some difference of time between October 1863 and 1870?—This Minute was written in 1884, and in it he refers to the Minute he wrote in 1870.

241. There may be a difference between what he believed in 1884, and what the men believed in 1863, and what is in the Minute of 1870?—He says merely that he had said the same thing in the Minute in 1870. He says that when he joined in 1863 the men thoroughly understood that they were not entitled to superannuation. The Minute of 1870 was handed in at the last sitting of the Committee. Now assuming that these men never heard of this regulation at all, and never know anything about it, and that it had never been told to them that they were not going to get superannuation, I come to the second part of this argument: have they by their service under Government, and in consequence of their alleged ignorance of the law and the regulations, suffered losses which they would not have incurred had they been in private employment; and is that loss of a character and extent requiring legislation to

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remedy it. The Secretary of State does not admit that they suffered any loss, they have, on the contrary, always received wages equal to those paid in the trade, and in addition have enjoyed privileges not common to the trade. On 5th January 1861 we had a letter from the Treasury telling us what the Admiralty system was as to superannuation, viz., that they have two systems there; certain of their men got superannuation, and certain of their men are never put upon the fixed establishment, and never got superannuation; and they said as it was very desirable that we should have a uniformity of system in the Departments, would we adopt the Admiralty system. We circulated that to the superintendents; I can put that in if you would like to have it.

242. *Chairman.*] I think it would be desirable to have it?—They sent us a draft Minute, and here is the draft Minute, which I will hand in, showing what the Admiralty system was (*handing in the same*). On that we wrote this letter to the superintendents:—"With reference to my letter of 27th October last, relative to the conditions on which the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury has decided that the grants of superannuation should be made to artificers, labourers, and others, under the provisions of the Superannuation Act of 19th April 1859, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Herbert to acquaint you that as it appears by correspondence with the Treasury that in some of the establishments under the administration of the Lords of the Admiralty there are a class of artificers, shipwrights, riggers, &c., who work in classes at fixed wages, often below the market value at the time in private yards, and whose permanent connection is alike beneficial to the State by enabling it to secure and retain the services of a trained and efficient body of workmen in case of emergency or war, and to the men by securing their steady employment during periods of peace or depression in their trades, with a provision in case of incapacity from old age or illness, Mr. Herbert is desirous of learning whether any operatives are employed in your departments under such conditions." In reply to that we had a letter from the Royal Small Arms Factory: "With reference to your letter of the 5th instant" (that is, the one I have just read), "I have the honour to inform you that no foreman or artificers are employed in this department who are, in my opinion, employed at 'fixed wages below the market value in private yards.'"

243. Colonel *Nolan.*] Who is that signed by?—By "P. F. Baddeley."

244. Who is Mr. Baddeley?—Major R.A., Superintendent.

245. What is the date of that?—The 7th of January 1861. I did not inquire as to who the people were who signed the letters; I only copied the letters as I found them. That is a letter from the Small Arms Factory at Enfield.

246. Mr. *Wiggin.*] Do I understand that the superintendent there said in 1861 that the men were not entitled to superannuation at Enfield, if they received the ordinary artisan's pay?—No, he merely answered the question as to whether they were working below the market value; and he said "No; that they were in receipt of the market rate of wages."

247. There is no reference to superannuation in that letter?—No; I am dealing now with the question of the market rate of wages. Then from the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich we have a letter dated the 18th of January 1861. "In reply to the chief clerk's letter of 5th instant, 24,147—66, I have the honour to state that there are no men employed in this department on the conditions therein referred to as governing the employment of certain classes of artificers, &c. in the Admiralty establishments; and I am strongly of opinion that it is far more advantageous at all times to pay workmen a fair market price for their labour, as by this means we ensure getting the best workmen, and only retain the services of such as prove themselves efficient. I beg to add that as regards foremen, I consider they should continue to be entitled to the benefit of pensions, as it will always be necessary to retain the services of a certain number of men to direct the work, who have a special knowledge of the operations carried on in the Department."

248. Colonel *Nolan.*] Who is that signed by?—By G. W. Boxer. He was then Captain Boxer; it is signed by him as superintendent.

249. *Chairman.*] Can you tell us whether those foremen were continued under pension?—The correspondence goes on to deal with that.

259. Mr.

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250. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Does he say at that time that the foremen only received pensions?—No; he says that they should continue to receive them. That was under the old Ordnance scale.

251. He recommends the foremen?—He recommends the foremen. Then the next letter from the War Office is 22nd of January 1861, "In reply to your letter of the 18th instant" (that is, the one I have just read) "I am directed by the Secretary of State for War, to acquaint you, in regard to the last paragraph thereof, that in order to establish the claim of the foremen in your department who have entered the Service since the 19th April 1859, to the allowances granted under the Superannuation Act, it will be necessary that the appointments of these men should be of a permanent character and approved by the Secretary of State, and as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in carrying out the provisions of the Act, have also made a condition that men in Government employ receiving wages fully equal to the market rate paid in private establishments, should not as a rule be admitted to the prospective advantages of the Act in question; it will be requisite before these men are admitted to the establishment, that their number and precise rate of wages should be stated, and the relative value of their wages determined in reference to the remuneration, which they would obtain from private employers as adverted to in my letter of 5th instant. I am further to add, that such foreman as may be appointed subsequent to the passing of the Superannuation Act will be required to possess certain educational requirements in reading, writing, and arithmetic, which will be afterwards communicated to you in the event of the men referred to becoming eligible under the conditions above stated." This is before the date of the Circular. These are the letters which led up to the Circular. Then in reply to that, Captain Boxer wrote again on the 13th of February 1861, "In reply to the chief clerk's letter of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to state, that the wages of the foremen in this department have been regulated by the market rate paid in private establishments. My only object in suggesting that the foremen should be admitted to the benefits of the Superannuation Act, was, that I considered advantage might be derived to the service by permanently retaining their services, and that this might be effected by holding out the advantage in question as an inducement to them not to leave the department in the event of advantageous openings offering elsewhere." Then the War Office replied on the 19th of February, six days afterwards, "With reference to your letter of the 13th instant, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Herbert, to acquaint you that, under the circumstances stated by you, it would not be expedient to make an exception in favour of the foremen." That was signed by Sir Benjamin Hawes. Now we come to a letter from the Royal Gun Factory, of 22nd January 1861: "With reference to your letter of the 5th January 1861" (that is, the first letter that was read, containing the Admiralty system) "on the subject of grants of superannuation to artificers and labourers, and stating that in the Admiralty a certain class of mechanics are employed who work at fixed wages, often lower than the market price, and thereby obtain a permanent connection, which is alike beneficial to the State and themselves, and requesting to be informed whether a like system was carried out in this department, I have the honour to state that the foremen and mechanics employed in the Gun Factories are considered to be paid the market value of their labour, and that none are employed under the conditions named in the extract of the letter from the Admiralty; nor do I think it would be advisable to do so." That is signed "John Anderson, Assistant Superintendent." Now that shows at that time that these men were considered by heads of departments to be receiving the market rate of wages.

252. Colonel *Nolan*.] Are you quite certain that each of these letters bears out that?—You must draw your own inference from them.

253. But you say it shows that?—I do not think it shows anything else.

254. In one letter which you read it is said that the wages were "regulated by the market rate paid in private establishments"; it does not say that they were at "fixed wages"?—I must leave the inference to the Committee. The only department where the wages were supposed to be less than the market rate of wages in other factories was the Royal Carriage Department, and as to that department Colonel Tulloch does not say that they were lower than the market rates.

rates, but lower than the rates in the other departments, that is, the Laboratory and the Royal Gun Department. It was thought at the War Office that his comparison was not at all a sound one. His men were workers in wood; it was in the old days of wooden carriages. The work in the Gun Factory was very special as it was in the Laboratory, and there was not so large a body of men of those classes in the country to draw upon, and therefore the wages to be given were somewhat higher, on account of the nature of the duties there, than they were in the Carriage Department. There was a very long correspondence, and it ended in Colonel Tulloch being told that he must give his men the market rate of wages; that he must put his men on the same footing as the other men.

255. Who told him that he was to do that?—The War Office.

256. What department of the War Office?—The Under Secretary of State for War, Earl de Grey.

257. Did he do it directly as Under Secretary of State for War or through the heads of other departments; I ask the question because there was a long examination before Lord Morley's Committee as to whether the War Office through the Director General had any power to interfere with the wages at all?—I do not think for the purposes of this Committee it is very important to inquire whether he had the power; he did so, as a matter of fact.

258. Has the Under Secretary of State for War at the present moment the power to alter the wages in the Arsenal?—He does not practically interfere, but I take it that the Secretary of State has power to do anything he likes in his now department.

259. Does he do it?—He does not do it as a matter of practice, because he trusts his subordinates; but I apprehend that he would be very inefficient if he had not the power to deal with that as well as everything else under him.

260. *Chairman.*] I apprehend at the time this system was under consideration such a thing would be almost essential?—Yes, I think so. I think the correspondence shows that, and when Colonel Nolan sees it in full I believe he will appreciate that that is so.

261. We had better have that correspondence?—I have it here; it is very long; the last letter is perhaps all I need read.

262. Will you put in any letter you think necessary, and hand the correspondence to Colonel Hughes, and if he wishes any other portion of the correspondence put in we will have it added?—

Colonel Hughes.] I never raised the dispute as to the power of the Secretary of State to regulate anything; the only thing I raised is that it ought to have been known to the persons affected. If this correspondence is put in as showing the reason why this Circular was issued I do not dispute it at all.

Chairman.] As I understand, this correspondence deals with the market rate of wages and the question whether the men were put at the market rate of wages.

Colonel Hughes.] The market rate of wages might be admitted for my purposes to have been the full market rate of wages, though I am aware it is questionable whether it was. I do not dispute that the Secretary of State had reasons, nor do I dispute his authority, to issue the Circular. I merely say that the men ought to have known of it.

Witness.] I have not made Colonel Hughes understand my argument I am afraid. I am now arguing the case upon the assumption that the men never heard of this Circular, and I am dealing with the question whether, in consequence of not having heard of the Circular, they have been damnified to an extent which requires public relief. That is the point I am upon now; I am not talking about the Circulars now.

263. *Colonel Nolan.*] There has been an immense quantity of evidence before Lord Morley's Committee with regard to the market rate of wages; are you in a position to make any statement yourself from your own knowledge as to how the wages at the Arsenal compare with those in shops and private establishments?—The Committee have been good enough to let me state the War Office view of the case. The evidence will be produced afterwards.

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264. I want somebody in the War Office to state it?—I am in the War Office; I am merely putting before the Committee now what we propose to prove, and handing in some of the correspondence.

265. Are we to understand that you are giving a statement of your own personal opinion as to whether these are the market rates of wages; because, if so, I would ask have you compared them with the rates of wages in public or private workshops?—No, I am not giving my own opinion as to wages. When I do make a statement of my own opinion I will make it plain that I am stating my own opinion, but hitherto I have not made such a statement. At present I am merely handing in the letters of the War Office upon the point.

266. *Chairman.*] I understand that this is a series of letters which passed at the time, and which bears upon this question of the rate of wages?—Yes; I only want to put those letters in at present.

267. You have not as yet tendered any personal evidence of your own further than this, that being in an official position you vouch for these letters which you produce as being proper copies?—Quite so. As a rule we are not allowed to produce War Office Minutes, which are considered confidential documents of the War Office, but these War Office Minutes happen to be in the nature of correspondence, and therefore I have been able to obtain the permission of the Secretary of State to produce them. Then I come to Lord de Grey's Minute to the Director of Ordnance, dated on the 17th of December 1861 (oddly enough to exact date of the Circulars), which is as follows, "All men engaged before the 19th April 1859 will go on on the old system, and the cases of those engaged between that date and the issue of the Circular of the 29th August last" (saying that men on market rates of wages will not get superannuation), "may be specially referred to the Treasury for their consideration. If men take the higher wages they can only have claim to compensation on account of the period since April 1859, during which they have been in receipt of wages below the market rate." That was to the Carriage Department; then there is a letter from the Carriage Department on the 20th of December 1861, which says, "As it appears that the Lords of the Treasury have decided that men entered before 19th April 1859 are entitled to superannuation, and to be paid as at present, it follows that if the men entered since that date are not to be entitled to superannuation, but are to receive a higher rate of wages, there must be two systems of payment in the department; this is practically impossible. The greater portion of our work is now done and paid for by the piece, and could not have prices varying according to the date of entry of the individual who might happen to be employed on it. Moreover, as stated in my letter of the 15th October last, any difference in rate of wages among the men would be a source of great and endless dissatisfaction. As the whole of the men who entered since April 1859 were merely engaged temporarily, and would have to leave on the department being reduced, there does not appear to be any necessity for making any alteration in the present rate of pay, with which they are quite contented, but should this period of service extend to any considerable number of years their case might be specially considered as laid down in the above Minute of the Under Secretary of State for War. Any men entered after the 1st April 1862" (at that time he thought the system would come into effect at the 1st of April, we generally make our change at the end of the financial year), "might be informed that they are not to expect superannuation allowance, but there should be no difference in the rate of pay." In reply to that, Lord de Grey writes on 30th December 1861, "The cases of these men must be represented to the Treasury as they arise, but I cannot undertake to say what their Lordships' decision may be. It should be clearly understood that no men of this class taken on after the current date will come under the Superannuation Act, or be entitled to any superannuation." The other letters I will hand in afterwards. Now that was the one department where it was stated that the men were getting less than the market rate of wages, and with regard to that one department I will show the Committee afterwards that the men were informed that they were not entitled to superannuation. In the whole of the other departments it was stated that the men were getting the full market rate of wages, and therefore even if it is assumed that these men were not informed of the Circular they have suffered no loss by not being informed

of it, because they have had under the War Office exactly what they would have got if they had been anywhere else, and not only that, but they have had advantages, such as sick pay, and medical attendance, with a certain number of holidays with full pay.

268. What amount of holidays do they get at full pay?—I think they have five days holiday in the year with full pay: such as the Queen's Birthday, the Coronation Day, and, I think, Good Friday, &c.; I do not know what the days are, but I think there are five days altogether. In 1859 (that was prior to this correspondence), when the departments were asked to send in the names of men who would be entitled under the Act, before any question arose about their wages, Mr. Anderson wrote the following letter, "In compliance with the instructions contained in letter of 5th December 1859, 24,147—17, I have the honour to enclose a list of the various denominations of artificers employed in the Royal Gun Factories as they appear in the books, also the different descriptions of men classed under the head of labourers. Not being aware of the object for which this return may be required, I take the liberty of making a few remarks by way of explanation. It will be seen in the list that there are upwards of 70 different descriptions of artificers, and then he goes on to say that he could reduce them to two descriptions if we liked; but I need not read that, for it is not important. Then he says, "I would also take this opportunity of stating that the tie between the Government and the greater number of the workmen who are taken on for employment is a very slight one indeed, as compared with what it was when I first came into the Arsenal in 1842. At that time the wages of artificers was one uniform dead level of 24 s. 6 d. per week, and the work performed on an average was worth little more than half of that amount. The men considered themselves as fixtures, they were seldom or ever removed, except in superannuation, and when they worked overtime there was no extra pay. Now it is entirely changed; to get good workmen we are paying the full London price. We neither give nor take a quarter of an hour, and all overtime is paid for at the rate of one and a half, or, as it is termed, time and half; an hour counts as an hour and a half. We are constantly taking on men out of the crowd who surround the gates daily, and as regularly paying away those who are found to be inferior or slow workmen. The best class of workmen are seldom taken on at the gate; we obtain, by inquiring of good workmen, where there are any and get them to induce them to leave their present employment, and often when the proper men are got it is difficult to secure their services owing to the scarcity of houses in the town. With the view to induce some of these men to remain I have used as an argument the constancy of the employment, the payment for holidays, and the superannuation after a long service, but nothing less than another halfpenny per hour would answer the purpose. Common workmen are obtained in any number at the gates, but, as was stated before, first-class men will not work for less than the London wages."

269. What is the date of that letter?—The 10th of December 1859.

270. Mr. Wiggin.] At that time superannuation apparently was adopted, because he mentions superannuation as being an inducement to the men.—Yes, he mentions it; but he says nothing would satisfy the men except higher wages.

271. Colonel Nolan.] He gives that as a reason why men would be willing to stay at lower wages at Woolwich than anywhere else?—No, he says nothing short of an extra 1 s. 2 d. an hour would keep them.

272. Who is it that signs that letter?—"John Anderson."

273. What was he at that time; was he Inspector of Machinery, or was he Superintendent of the Gun Factory?—He signs as "Assistant Superintendent, Gun Factories."

274. I should like to know the date of that letter, because that will bear upon Colonel Campbell's letter of 1863?—The date of this letter is 1859. Then, again, in 1870 a question was asked of Mr. Anderson as to what he had done about formulating the Circular, and whether he had made a speech promising superannuation, and he makes this reply: "The enclosed correspondence refers back to transactions said to have taken place 11 years ago, and had wholly passed from my memory until brought up by these papers. I have no recollection of having made any such promises as are herein referred to, yet I may have

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have done so before my own mind fully realised the intention of the Treasury Regulation. My present impression is that there were some men under the proper market rate when I went to the Royal Gun Factories in 1859, but all that I engaged were paid at the market value so far as I can recollect. With regard to promulgating the Order I have no remembrance of any steps having been taken, but I have no doubt that all the manufacturing departments acted alike and in concert." That was in the Paper which I handed in on the last occasion.

275. *Mr. Wiggin.*] When he says that all the manufacturing departments acted alike they all omitted to promulgate the Order, did they not?—He does not say in what respect they acted alike, but he is evidently mistaken in saying that because, apparently, they did not act at all. In that respect they acted alike, if you can say so. When these memorials of 1873 (that is the memorials of the present men) were sent in Sir Frederick Campbell, who was then Colonel Campbell, wrote this letter: "I enclose a memorial from the workmen of this department," that is, the Royal Gun Factories, "who joined it between 17th December 1861 and 4th June 1870, on the subject of superannuation, they appearing to think that the Act of 1873 entitles them to consideration for superannuation. I may remark that none of them are on the establishment, and that they have had the full market rates of wages." That is dated 13th November 1873. Then, in sending the memorial that came from the Eufield men, Colonel Fraser says: "I beg to forward the accompanying memorial from certain men in this Factory who consider that they are entitled to pensions under the Superannuation Act of 1873, and who only worked in the department after 1861. They are all on hourly pay at the market rate of wages, most of them being on piecework."

276. *Chairman.*] Will you kindly inform the Committee as to your exact position at the War Office?—I am Assistant Under Secretary of State for War. I might, perhaps, mention to the Committee that I have never had anything to do with this question of superannuation, and I have never had anything to do with the Arsenal; and when this question arose Mr. Stanhope wanted to get an opinion upon the question perfectly free from any bias from somebody who had never had anything to do with the matter in past years, and who had no connection with it, and he asked me to look into the question. I did so; and I may say it has taken me months to get at all these old papers; and my investigations have been without any bias whatever, because if anything has been done wrong it has not been upon my responsibility.

277. Perhaps you would be able to give an opinion upon the question before you conclude your evidence. Your opinion would be very valuable to the Committee no doubt?—I have formed an opinion what I shall be prepared to state. Now I will come to the Report of Lord Morley's Committee on the Manufacturing Departments. Perhaps before I go into the details of the evidence I may remark one thing: That was a Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the Manufacturing Departments, and it made no recommendation whatever that the wages needed increasing, or that the wages were below the proper rate, or anything of that sort, and therefore, I take it, that it were satisfied with the evidence it got upon that point; but that, of course, is only an inference of my own. That Committee sat in 1886 and 1887. I will refer first to Colonel Maitland's evidence; he was asked by Mr. Woodall, at Question 915, "Have you any opportunity of comparing your prices with those of private firms"? And he says, "From time to time I send round to certain private firms to ask them what the rate is, but there is also a constant means of comparing by knowing what they have been paying the men that we take on. When we take on a man we always write to ask his character and what the man had been getting, so that we are constantly comparing them in that way." Then, at Question 916, he is asked, "From the information which you have so acquired you are under the impression that you get your labour performed at the market price of the day." And he says, "I think we are paying very little indeed, on the average, over private pay. We think that our men are paid just a little better than the average, and then we think we get rather a better class of men. We may be wrong, but that is our opinion on looking round."

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Colonel *Hughes*.] That is evidence given in 1886; that cannot affect the wages before 1870.

Witness.] I am talking of 1887. If the Committee want to go to an earlier period we must get out the rates, and evidence will be produced if they think it is required. I can produce some general evidence as to what the rates have been for the last 20 or 30 years.

Chairman.] Do I gather that it is disputed that these men were paid the full market rate of wages.

Colonel *Hughes*.] No doubt the wages have been increased since 1870, and, therefore, evidence as to what the wages were in 1887 will have no effect as to what they were between 1861 and 1870. I have evidence that the rate was below the rate of wages at that time.

Chairman.] Then I understand it is disputed?

Colonel *Hughes*.] Yes.

278. Mr. *Fenwick* (to Sir Arthur Haliburton).] Since what date do you say that the wages have been increased?—I believe during the last 30 years. I have given evidence as to what the wages were in 1861, and shown that they were the full market rates in the opinion of very responsible gentlemen who were not likely to deceive the War Office.

Mr. *Wiggin* (to Colonel *Hughes*).] You dispute the statement made by Sir Arthur Haliburton, and you say, as I understand, that the wages paid from 1860 to 1870 were less than the average rate of wages in the trade?

Colonel *Hughes*.] Certainly they were less.

Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] As I understand Colonel *Hughes*, he does not wish to make the admission that the fair market rate of wages has always been paid, but I also understand him to say that he does not conceive that that is a question which we have to decide upon here.

Colonel *Hughes*.] What I say is, that if we are to go into the question of wages at all it ought to be the market rates between 1861 and 1870, and not later than 1870, because it may have been, and it has been increased since then.

Mr. *Fenwick*.] Since what date has it been increased?

Colonel *Hughes*.] It is constantly altering.

279. *Chairman* (to Sir Arthur Haliburton).] I do not see what the rate of wages at the present day can have to do with the question?—It would be brought out probably that there have been some changes in wages; but I am perfectly content to rest it upon what I have already given.

280. *Chairman*.] If you have any more evidence as to the wages up to that particular date, we shall be glad to hear it?—I will call witnesses upon that special point.

281. Colonel *Nolan*.] As you have read all the correspondence you will probably know very well the position which the superintendents in these large departments at the Arsenal, and at Enfield, have taken up, so that you will be able to answer this question. Is not their position nearly always this: We pay the market rate of wages, but we manufacture more cheaply than the trade; do not those two things always go together in their statements?—If you mean the selling price of the trade, I should think it probably is so.

282. But is not their constant contention, We pay the market rate, but we manufacture more cheaply?—The departments make no profit, whereas the trade have to make a profit, and so their selling prices must be higher. I do not know that they can manufacture cheaper than the trade, but of course the private manufacturer is supposed to get a living out of it, and must therefore sell at a higher price than the War Office can manufacture at for their own use and not for sale.

283. *Chairman*.] We want no evidence as to the rate of wages up to the present time; we only want evidence with regard to the date with which we are specially dealing here?—Very well. On another occasion I will bring you that evidence for past years. As far as I have shown you, it appears that in 1861 these men were getting the full market rates of wages, except, it was suggested, in one department, and in the one department where it was supposed that they were not getting the full market rate of wages, they were told that they were not entitled to superannuation, and the superintendent was told that he

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he must give the men the full market rate of wages. Then the argument is even if it were admitted, that they were ignorant of the law and of the regulations of the Department.

284. Is this your own argument?—It is the War Office argument.

285. Are you the War Office, so far as this argument is concerned?—I represent the Secretary of State for War, and these are his views.

286. Do you share those views yourself?—Yes.

287. Is it your argument?—Yes; there is nobody now in the War Office who knows anything about this. I say if these men were ignorant of these things, it cannot be admitted that they have suffered any loss on account of that ignorance, nor consequently that they have any claim upon the public for redress. Even if their emoluments had been slightly below those they might have earned in the trade which we do not admit, they have received a boon under the Act of 1887, which would outweigh any such difference, and redress any such grievance if it had any existence, that is, the Act giving the Government power to give gratuities to the men of long service, which was passed in 1887. I have got it here and can hand it in (*handing in the same*).

288. Is that being acted upon?—I do not know whether there has been a case under it yet in our own particular department, but it would be acted upon every day, I should think. With regard to these men, no doubt, if they never heard of these circulars, and if they had been going on in total ignorance of them (which we do not in any way admit), they may now have to suffer a disappointment; but it is obviously impossible that the public can grant pension to persons whose only claim is, that they have erroneously expected it. It is not quite clear that they have even that ground here; it is not at all clear that those men did not know of the rules contained in the circulars. But if they did not, the mere disappointment which they would suffer, unless they can prove substantial loss, does not justify them in going to Parliament and asking the Treasury to grant a sum of money as compensation for a loss which has not been sustained. It has been pointed out that these men have only been in receipt of the same wages as those entered prior to 1861, and yet that the latter get pensions. That is perfectly true, and that is an incident of inequality that attends every change of system in every Government Department. Whenever you make a change that involves reduction, you respect the vested interests, as they are called, of persons already in the service, and if you bring in a new man, you have him working side by side with others at a less rate of pay, and he has to be contented with a less rate of pay. I do not think the mere fact that A. B. have been getting one penny while C. D. has been getting twopence, gives the man who gets a penny any claim to get more provided that the penny is enough in itself. Now as regards the mere fact of the same rates of pay being a ground for granting superannuation, if you gave it to these men the same anomaly would arise again. The man who entered on the 4th of June would get pay and pension; the man who entered on the 5th of June would get his pay without his pension, and you can never make a change without an anomaly of this kind arising.

289. Mr. John Talbot.] You admit, do you not, that full notice ought to be given of a change?—I say that even if full notice has not been given it has not affected them substantially. If they had been expecting their superannuation, they have not had a money loss; if they had left and gone elsewhere they would have got no more than they have received from Government.

290. Mr. Wiggan.] Supposing a man were engaged up to the 4th of June on a certain footing, and no notice was given to the public of any change of rules, anybody entering on the 5th of June would have the right to assume that he was entering on the same terms as if he had entered on the 4th of June, would he not?—Yes, he would have been very badly treated, but he would not have had the right to ask Parliament to make up the loss which he had never incurred.

291. Mr. John Talbot.] That is rather a question for Parliament, is it not?—Yes; the view we take is that there is no money loss to those men. I have been arguing on the assumption that they did not know of these things, but I believe that they did. The case does not really close with these people. I will hand in the memorials we have received. We have received memorials from the men who entered after 1870. That memorial was sent in 1882, and it was signed by 1,288 men, of whom over 600 joined after 1870.

292 We do not want that memorial put in, because it hardly concerns us?—Quite.

293. Mr. *Walter James*.] Does this apply to men entering between 1861 and 1870?—Some had entered during that period and some of them afterwards.

294. Does it apply to matters subsequent to 1870?—No, this does not: I was merely saying that we have not got to the end of the question of these applications; the same thing must recur afterwards, if it is based on any view of any loss which the men are supposed to have sustained.

295. Mr. *Alfred Gathorne-Hardy*.] It is quite clear that the men had notice in 1870, is it not?—Yes, there is no doubt about that, and we admit that the formal promulgation of these circulars did not take place to the men except in one department, the carriage department. The purport of it was announced there.

296. Colonel *Nolan*.] You admit that it was not promulgated to the men in any way?—Not formally.

297. Was it put up on the notice boards?—We cannot trace it; we cannot show that it was; but I will bring some evidence from the departments to show that they were really known to the men. How they knew them is another question. They were not formally promulgated, but they were, in fact, known, and taking that in conjunction with the fact, that the men have lost nothing at all that they were entitled to, we have always looked upon it that we were not justified in seeking to give the men compensation for a loss which they have not sustained.

298. In your statement, the capitalised value of the superannuation applied for appears to be about 300,000 £.—That was worked out by the actuaries.

299. Does that apply only to Woolwich?—To Woolwich, Enfield, and Pimlico; I had not time to get any statement from the Military Store Department; I should think it would be about 50,000 £. more, probably, but I cannot say.

300. *Chairman*.] Have you completed your statement?—Yes.

301. Am I correct in supposing that superannuation before 1857 was procured by deductions from pay in the case of these men?—No, they never were entitled to superannuation.

302. Not before 1857?—Never.

303. Perhaps I should say pensions?—They were entitled to pensions, but there were no deductions from their pay towards pension.

304. Not before 1857?—No, never; Lord Naas's Act never had reference to them.

305. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Do you draw any distinction between superannuation and pension?—Yes; I was trying on the last occasion to explain the distinction to some extent.

306. *Chairman*.] Is there any limit of age laid down in engaging these artificers?—Yes, they do not take them over 35, I think, and there is a limit of age at which they come in as youths.

307. Did all these men receive pensions who entered between 1859 and 1861?—Yes, they have not got them yet, but they will get them as they go.

308. All these men entering between 1859 and 1861 will receive superannuation?—They will under the Superannuation Act of 1873.

309. Have you handed in the circulars of 1861 with the office enfacements upon them?—Yes, I have.

310. Those enfacements are of importance, I presume, because they show that they were issued to various officers?—I have handed them in, and I think that they are upon the notes.

311. Mr. *Alfred Gathorne-Hardy*.] I understand your point to be this: up to 1859 the men received pensions, but not superannuation; they received pensions under the old Ordnance system?—Yes, much smaller than the superannuation rates.

312. By the Act of 1859 one uniform system of superannuation was introduced for all civil servants?—Yes.

313. By the 2nd section of that Act that you have referred us to, the Treasury decision was final as to what classes of civil servants were to be entitled to superannuation?—Yes.

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314. Then between 1859 and August 1861 the Treasury were communicating with the War Office, and that correspondence took place which you have shown us, for the purpose of informing their minds as to what decision they should arrive at with regard to this question of law?—Yes, that is the case.

315. Then as regards the circular of the 29th of August 1861, I am not now upon the question of whether it was made known to the men or not, but as a matter of fact it was the formal decision of the Treasury that these men were not entitled to superannuation?—It was the formal decision under Clause 2 of the Superannuation Act.

316. Then the second circular, of the 17th December 1861, was in consequence of the remarks of Mr. Anderson and others; it was pointed out that there might be a hardship to the men who had entered between 1859 and 1861 while the Treasury was making up its mind, and who might be misled by their superiors into supposing that they would be entitled to superannuation?—Yes, and who were really misled by the direct action of their inferiors.

317. Therefore the War Office Circular of the 17th December 1861 was issued for the purpose of removing any hardship which these men might have inflicted upon them through the decision of the Treasury being come to after they had entered, they having entered under the supposition that they would be entitled to superannuation under the Act?—Yes, with what the circular calls a well-grounded expectation.

318. Your point, as I understand it (I am merely putting the point; I am not arguing it), is that the circular of the 17th December 1861 was not an enabling circular, but that the Act made the law; but that the circular did away with certain disadvantages which certain men had under that Act of Parliament?—Under the Treasury decision under Section 2 of the Act.

319. Supposing that neither of these circulars were made known to the men at all (I am not assuming it as against you, but I am only putting it as a supposititious case), and supposing also that the men, in fact, never knew of some of these circulars, and also that they supposed up to 1870 that they were entitled to superannuation, I should like to ask you, not as a question of bare law, but as a question of right, what distinctions do you draw between the men who entered between 1859 and 1861, and the men who entered after 1861?—The men who entered before that period of 1861 could not obtain a Civil Service certificate, because the machinery for examining that class of persons had never been laid down. The Act says that a man shall enter with that certificate, and I take it that a man is supposed to know the law, and if he thought that he was going to get superannuation, under the Act of 1859, he ought to have asked to be examined. The examination had been prescribed in August 1861, and then they might have been examined. The men who entered before 1861 could not be examined, because the machinery was not provided; it had not then been settled by the Civil Service Commissioners what the examination was to be.

320. So far as the distinction arising from the mere absence of a certificate goes, that has been remedied in other cases subsequently by Act of Parliament?—Yes, when it has not been obtained, owing to “inadvertence.”

321. The men ought to have known, no doubt; as a pure question of law they are supposed to have known the provisions of any Act of Parliament; but Parliament has not taken the view that they ought to be deprived of superannuation because of their ignorance of an Act of Parliament?—No; but the Act of 1873 was based entirely upon their not having obtained a certificate through the inadvertence of the heads of their department. There was no inadvertence in the case of those entering after 1861 on the part of the heads of departments, because they never intended to give a certificate; there was inadvertence up to 1861, but the inadvertence ceased in 1861, and there was no inadvertence afterwards.

322. I see a very broad distinction, in point of law, between the men who entered between 1859 and 1861, and the men whose grievances we are now asked to remedy who entered between 1861 and 1870; but apart from the question of law, and simply dealing with the question of notice, if these men did not know of the issue of the circulars of 1861, and did not know of the Treasury Minute, and always believed that they were entitled to superannuation, can you draw a further distinction between the men entering between 1859 and

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1861, and the men entering between 1861 and 1870?—If that were admitted you could not. I have already stated that we did wrong, in my opinion, when we gave it to the 1861 men; we were stepping outside of our duty then, I think, but I do not draw any distinction between the two if it were admitted that there was no notice.

323. Mr. *Wiggin*.] You stated just now, or Sir Frederick Campbell said, that in 1863 the men knew that they were not entitled to superannuation; is there any evidence to the effect that the men were aware in 1863 that they were not entitled to superannuation?—I will bring you some evidence to that effect.

324. Then, after 1861 do the men undergo an examination, and must they have a certificate before they are put on?—Any man who is entitled to claim superannuation under the Superannuation Act must get a certificate.

325. All men engaged after 1861 who claim superannuation must have been examined, and must have a certificate?—Yes; no man can get superannuation without his certificate.

326. Was that known to the men in 1862, or 1863?—A man getting the full market rate of wages is not entitled to superannuation, therefore, there is no use his getting a certificate; merely getting a certificate would not give him a right to superannuation.

327. Do I understand you that a man who gets a certificate and is entitled to superannuation does not get the full market rate of wages?—He is not supposed to get the full market rate of wages and superannuation in addition: that is in that Admiralty Minute; it shows two classes, one set of men getting the full market rate of wages without superannuation, and the other set of men getting less pay with superannuation; the two together are supposed to make up the full market rate of wages, although in the one case payment is deferred till the man leaves the service. That is the theory, but whether it is strictly adhered to or not I cannot say.

328. Mr. *Fenwick*.] Have you had an opportunity of going over the evidence that was put in on Tuesday?—Yes, I looked it over this morning.

329. Has your attention been called to Colonel Hughes's evidence; I am specially now speaking of Question 58, and the words to which I wish to call your attention are, "The case is very complicated if you wish to complicate it, but very simple if you stick to one point," and that point is, "non-publication;" your attention has been called to that?—Yes.

330. Do you admit it to be so?—I admit that that would be very much more simple, but I do not admit that the fact of the War Office having, we will assume, done a thing that was wrong, or neglected a duty, gives anybody a money claim upon the public, unless they have suffered loss or been damaged by that act.

331. Do you admit that that is the point at issue between the War Office and the workmen?—No; I say that attaching to that point is the other question, that assuming the workmen never heard of the circular, have they been damaged?

332. Would you say that the superintendents of the various departments in the factories were the representatives of the War Office?—Yes.

333. Therefore, any neglect on their part to publish instructions issued from the War Office would tacitly imply a neglect on the part of the War Office itself?—Yes, I think that the War Office would be responsible for the acts of their agents.

334. You think that this non-publication would be a very serious point in issue to the workmen?—I think it is a very important point, because there is no doubt, if they never heard of these things, it would have caused a very great disappointment; but I do not admit that, even if true, it has caused them a loss that requires a vote of money to relieve them, unless you are merely going to relieve the men from the effects of disappointment.

335. What means would the workmen have of knowing that any change had been effected in their condition, except by the publication of these circulars?—I will try to bring some evidence before you, to show, not that the circular was posted up on a door, and that they read it there, but that they knew after 1861 that they were not entitled to pension.

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336. At Question 125 Colonel Hughes was asked, "Is it not usual in the Arsenal to post up every change in the regulations, in the clearest possible manner in the workshops;" are you aware that the answer to that question was, "There are notice boards in every department on which everything affecting the men ought to be, and is supposed to be posted;" is that so?—I believe so, but there is no record, so far as I can understand, of what was from time to time posted on those boards.

337. If these circulars were not posted on those boards, that would be a dereliction of duty on the part of the superintendents or the heads of the departments, would it not?—Yes, quite so; I think they ought to have made the circulars thoroughly well known, and it is quite clear that they did not make them thoroughly well known.

338. You admit in your evidence this morning, that these circulars were not published to the men?—They were not published by the superintendents to their men; I think that is pretty clear; at any rate we do not contest that point; we have no evidence upon that point.

339. You have no authority, I suppose, to say that the workmen received any intimation in an official manner, except through these circulars?—That I cannot say. Whether the superintendents instructed the managers to tell the foremen or not, I do not know; what took place I cannot say, but I will bring you evidence to show that the fact was known.

340. Do you mean documentary evidence?—No, witnesses.

341. Witnesses who were there at the time when the circular was issued?—Yes.

342. I think you said previously, that the workmen in the Small Arms Factory at Enfield were employed below the market rate of wages?—No, that was suggested with reference to the Royal Carriage Department; I think that Enfield was supposed to be a little above the market rate.

343. Were these men informed of the issue of these circulars in the Royal Carriage Department, where they were admittedly working below the market rate of wages?—With regard to the Carriage Department, I will bring you some evidence shortly to prove that that fact was noted in their regulations, and it was the duty of a certain man in the Royal Carriage Department, as the men came in to be employed in 1862, to tell them that they were not entitled to superannuation.

344. Colonel Nolan.] Have there been any claims from the Royal Carriage Department?—Yes, from all the departments.

345. Mr. Fenwick.] You have no knowledge as to whether these circulars were posted?—Not as circulars.

346. Is there a regulation requiring that they should be posted?—No, I do not think so; it was left to the superintendents to notify what they thought ought to be notified, but there is no regulation upon the subject.

347. Would you consider that the men below the market rate of wages in the Carriage Department, assuming that they had had no notice, would be entitled to their superannuation?—I think they clearly would be; if it could be shown that these men were below the market rate of wages, and the market rate of wages, plus superannuation, would bring them up to the proper level, they ought to get it; but it turns upon that.

348. You stated, I think, as an argument that, supposing these men were ignorant of the issue of the circular from the War Office, they could have suffered no pecuniary loss; the only thing they could have suffered would have been disappointment; taking, for instance, a workman in a factory on the Tyne; do you think that a workman entering upon a factory or workshop upon the Tyne would expect after he had served a certain length of time to receive a pension or superannuation?—I do not think they get it there; I do not think any private firms give superannuations.

349. Then I suppose that these men's expectancy would be created by the fact that it had been the custom of Government to pay pensions to workmen in this factory?—That must have been the foundation of it, I suppose.

350. And, therefore, no notice to the contrary would create an expectancy
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in the minds of these men that after they had served a certain length of time a pension or superannuation allowance would be due to them?—Yes.

351. Mr. *Walter James*.] The Act of 1873 was passed by reason of the case of the man Weaver, was not it?—It originated in him first.

352. You read a number of letters to the Committee, stating the claim?—Yes.

353. What were the grounds upon which they based their claims for superannuation under the Act of 1873?—They based their claims chiefly upon the grounds that all the other workmen entered before them got it; that they had always been in expectation of it, and amongst other reasons which they gave, for their expectation of it was the circular of 1861.

354. But in the various letters which you read to the Committee there was nothing at all at that time said with regard to the question of non-publication?—Nothing at all; they all quoted the circular as if they had always known of it.

355. Since that the ground to a certain extent has been shifted?—It is necessary for them to shift the ground for the two claims. The knowledge of the circular they evidently thought was absolutely essential to their claim at that time. They stated that the circular had settled their minds, and that they always thought they were going to get superannuation. The men who claim now state that they never heard of the circular, because if they had heard of it they must have known that they would not be entitled to superannuation, so that we have that argument used in both ways.

356. You admit there was some *laches* on the part of the superintendents in not making the circulars known to the men?—Clearly.

357. Colonel *Nolan*.] Do you know how the rate of pay is adjusted as to piece-work?—No; I propose to call the managers on that point. I am not competent to give evidence upon it; it is a technical point.

358. Are you or not aware, that when the men are supposed to be earning too much at piece-work, that the rate at which they are paid is cut down?—Yes, I have seen it in Lord Morley's Report. They do, as a rule, allow them to work from a rate to a rate and a third, or a rate and a half; if it gets above that generally they readjust the rating.

359. That is the day-work?—Yes, that is the rate.

360. And you are aware of that fact?—Yes.

361. The letters you have been reading are exclusively from superintendents and assistant superintendents, are they not?—Yes.

362. Do you know whether practically the managers fix the rate of pay?—Yes; as I have said, I am going to call the managers on that.

363. Are you aware that the managers, or some of them, examined before Lord Morley's Committee, Mr. Piper, for example, said they knew nothing about the civilian rates of pay at all?—Mr. Piper is not a manager; he is chief clerk.

364. Are the managers acquainted with the civilian rates of pay; you are not aware of that, perhaps?—No.

365. *Chairman*.] We do not want information about the rate at the present day?—No; I understand it is the rate in the old times you want.

366. Colonel *Nolan*.] This system you speak of as to cutting down piece-work has gone on from 1856 or 1857?—As I understand it is this: say they rate a man to 3s. a day, that is his rate providing he is on sick pay or holidays. When he works he works at piece-work, and at piece-work he is able to earn perhaps one-third or a half more. He might earn as much as 3s., or 4s., or 5s. a day, but if they find the men are habitually earning a good deal more then they readjust the rating.

367. And cut it down?—Or cut it up.

368. Do they ever cut it up?—People are not in the habit of cutting up.

369. Is it the habit in any civilian place?—I am told piece-work in London is not known very much.

370. Mr. *Wiggin*.] It is very largely adopted in the provinces?—But not in London.

371. Colonel *Nolan*.] As to the habit of cutting down, is that not peculiar to the Government departments when men are earning too much?—Not at all.

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The evidence I read was that the piece-work did not obtain in civilian establishments so much.

372. The plan of cutting down is not usual in civilian establishments?—That I cannot say.

373. There is one other point I want to ask you; you hold a very important position, and will be able to give us a good opinion; is it not a matter of the very greatest consequence that we should keep strikes out of the Government departments, particularly for the manufacture of war material, if we possibly can?—That is very desirable.

374. And is it not a fact too that there has never been a strike in the Arsenal?—I cannot say positively. I heard it stated the other day, and it may be so.

375. Has it not been remarkably exempt from the difficulties attending strikes?—Yes, remarkably.

376. And is not a great deal of this attributable to the other advantages which the workmen get quite independent of pay—medical attendance and superannuation?—Yes, I think so.

377. A good deal of the immunity from strikes between 1863 and 1873 may have arisen from the fact that they were hoping for superannuation?—It would not have affected the men who entered after 1870. Taking the men entitled to superannuation at the very outside, supposing all the men are alive now and working, they would amount to about 1,500 or 1,600 out of 15,500.

378. Are you counting women and children in the 15,000?—Not women and children, the workpeople.

379. Men?—Yes, men; there may be some boys.

380. Are the 15,000 men?—Yes, 15,500; so the proportion of pensioners is very very small.

381. But at all events there has been a remarkable exemption from strikes?—So I believe.

382. And many people have attributed that to these indirect advantages which the men have got?—Yes.

383. You read a letter from Major Baddeley, the head of the Enfield Factory, was he succeeded by General Dixon?—I do not know. I can find out.

384. Shortly after the date of that letter was not there an enormous cutting down in the rate of wages?—I am not aware of it.

385. I think it would be from the date?—I will call the manager from Enfield who will give you all the information on that point.

MR. GEORGE LOCK, called in; and Examined.

386. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—A messenger.

387. Where?—In the carriage office at Woolwich Arsenal.

388. When did you enter the Arsenal?—On the 18th October 1860.

389. I am requested to ask you this question, was it part of your duty in 1862 to inform men joining the Royal Carriage Department, that they were not entitled to superannuation?—I believe it was.

390. You say you believe it was. How is it you do not know whether it was your duty or not?—I could not swear to it, though I believe so, because it is so very long ago.

391. Was it your habit to make it known to them or not?—Not for very long. I was told to do it in 1862 for about 12 months, and I did it for about a twelve-month to the best of my recollection. It might have been a few months longer.

392. Do I understand you to say you informed every person who was engaged during that time that they were not to be entitled to superannuation?—I believe so, at that time, not altogether. During the time I was told to call it out I did.

393. If you were on your oath then you would be able to swear to it?—I told them they would not be entitled to superannuation.

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Mr. LOCK.

[Continued.]

394. You always told them that?—During that period.

395. Colonel *Nolan*.] Do you think you would be able to swear to it if you were in the witness box on oath?—I tell you truthfully and honestly, Sir, I said on my own recollection, and it being so long ago you will excuse me, if I am apt to forget, but to the best of my recollection I told them during that period.

396. Mr. *Fenrick*.] You would not swear to it?—No; I would not swear to it. There is no good my swearing to what I am not quite positive of.

397. *Chairman*.] That is in the carriage department?—Yes.

398. Mr. *Walter James*.] Who asked you to come here?—Mr. Piper.

399. Who is Mr. Piper?—The principal clerk of the carriage office, Woolwich Arsenal.

400. He knew you had these instructions many years ago?—No, not then; he was not there at that time. It was Mr. Manifold, who is now deceased, that gave me instructions.

401. Mr. Manifold is dead, you say, and he gave you those instructions?—Yes. I would tell you gentlemen this, I firmly believe I did call it out during the time I was told of it. I want you to understand this; I entered the department in the year 1860, and consequently I am entitled to superannuation. I thought I would say that, because you know that it is no interest for me to state it on my own part. I only state conscientiously, truthfully, and honestly, what I believe to be the case, and I firmly believe very few were told that they were not entitled to superannuation. I do not remember telling them all; some of them I did.

402. Very few were told of it?—Very few to my recollection.

403. Colonel *Nolan*.] Did you ever see boards posted up, with written notices concerning the Arsenal all about the carriage department?—I have not.

404. But did you ever see boards posted up with notices about men being stopped &c. if they did not come within the first five minutes?—I have seen those boards.

405. When workmen want to find out anything about their wages do they look at those boards?—If they do not, they ought to.

406. And they can see them?—Yes. If one does not look, another one will tell him.

407. If a notice is not on those boards, does not the workman consider he is all right. If he does not see a new regulation, he considers he is all right?—If he does not see a new regulation, how can he know.

408. If a new regulation is not put on that board, would a workman be found fault with by the manager or reported for not observing it?—If he had not seen it posted on the board, if the board were put up, he would be called to account for not having looked.

409. But if it was not on the board, he would not be held to know?—No, certainly not.

410. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Did you ever see any notice on the boards that there would be no superannuation granted in future?—Certainly not; not to my recollection.

411. You said for the first twelve months after you were appointed you were told to tell the men, and did tell all the men for the first twelve months?—Not all; I cannot say all; sometimes I might be out in another place.

412. At first I understood you to say you told all?—I told all that I had seen; I used to call it out, but perhaps I might be sent on duty somewhere, and then some one else might call it out or might not.

413. Mr. *Fenwick*.] How long ago is it since you were asked to give evidence before this Committee by Mr. Piper?—About three weeks ago.

414. Were you asked what the nature of your evidence would be?—To know whether I had called out about the superannuation. I was asked the question whether I remembered, and I certainly did remember; at the same time I said that it was not for very long I called it out. If I was to say I called it out for four or five or six years I should only be telling an untruth. I am telling you according

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[Continued.]

according to my conscience what I believe to be the truth and nothing but the truth.

415. I only want you to answer this question yes or no. When you were asked to give evidence before the Committee were you at the same asked what the nature of the evidence would be that you were able to give to the Committee?—No.

416. Then how did Mr. Piper know that you would be able to testify of your own knowledge that the workmen had information?—Mr. Piper asked me whether I had called out about superannuation, and I said I had done so, and for how long, just as I told you gentlemen.

417. Then I understand you to say now that Mr. Piper did ask you what would be the nature of the evidence that you could give if you appeared before the Committee?—I do not remember that.

418. Then do I understand this, that you are brought here by the officials without their having any knowledge as to the nature of the evidence that you would be able to give when you appeared here?—The last time when I was coming down, but at first when I said I called out the superannuation I was never told I was going to be brought before you gentlemen.

419. But you have been told before you came?—Yes.

420. Colonel *Nolan*.] You are entitled to superannuation?—I am.

421. Would it be a matter of consequence to you if the superannuation were stopped?—It would make no consequence to me, but I should be very sorry for the others.

422. But if your superannuation were stopped?—I do not think it could be; I am entitled to it.

423. But would it make a great difference to you if it were stopped?—Oh, it certainly would, it is something out of my pocket. I have been working for the Government all the time for just bare wages.

MR. JOHN BRODIE, called in ; and Examined.

424. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your present position in the Laboratory?—Principal Foreman of Engineers.

425. When did you enter the service?—In 1857.

426. Have you any reason for supposing that the men did or did not know of this change in the system by which the new comers would not receive superannuation?—We knew it in 1859, without doubt.

427. What did you know in 1859?—In 1859 we knew of the change that was taking place. I knew of the change that was taking place.

428. You were aware of the Act of Parliament?—I was aware of it.

429. Do you know anything about the circulars that were published in 1861?—No.

430. You were not aware whether the circulars were made known to the men or not?—No.

431. You know nothing about that?—No.

432. If they had been made known to the men in any way; if it was common talk among the men, should you have known it?—Oh, quite so.

433. Mr. *Walter James*.] Did you know of the Act of 1873 which arose in consequence of Weaver's case and other cases?—Yes. I knew of men passing by tickets; getting tickets. I was then at Gosport at the laboratory there. I was transferred from the Arsenal to Gosport, and I am aware then that one or two or three of the men passed through examinations and got a certificate ticket at the date you are speaking of.

434. What time was that, 1861?—It would be about 1861; 1861 or 1862.

435. But do you know anything about the Act which was passed in 1873?—No. That was the extension of the pensions you refer to.

436. Yes; you know nothing about that?—I know it was extended, that is all.

437. You do not know the circumstances under which it was passed?—No.

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438. And

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Mr. BRODIE.

[Continued.]

438. And you do not know that it was the topic of conversation?—No, I do not; I know there was an agitation by the men to get it.

439. There was an agitation by the men to get it, when?—In 1870.

440. *Chairman.*] I am asked to put this question: Do you think that the men, after 1861, knew that they would not receive pensions or superannuations?—It is my opinion that they did.

441. *Colonel Nolan.*] Are the foreman engineers of the laboratory paid as much as they would get in a first-class civilian factory?—I think so.

442. You think all the foreman engineers get as much pay?—Yes.

443. Will any of them get superannuation; you get superannuation, I understand?—I will get superannuation, and another one under me will, the next one to me.

444. And you consider yourself well paid, because you not only get your wages but get your superannuation?—Yes; I have been one of the fortunate ones.

445. You are the only principal foreman in the factory?—The only principal engineer foreman.

446. How much wages do you get?—I get 5 *l.* 10 *s.* per week.

447. How much does an ordinary engineer get, if that is what you call him?—Yes, an ordinary engineer; 4 *l.*; 3 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.*; and 2 *l.* 16 *s.* The men receiving these wages are foremen under me.

448. What do you call the men under you?—Working engineers.

449. What do they get?—I have one at 2 *l.* 4 *s.* 6 *d.*; I have some at 2 *l.* 2 *s.*; some at 2 *l.*; some at 37 *s.* 6 *d.*, that is, 8 *d.* an hour; and some at 35 *s.*

450. That is the lowest?—Yes.

451. And your men never get piece-work; there is no piece-work for engineers?—Not the engineers, but the men in the yard do, labouring men in the yard. The yard men are under me as well for removing stores.

452. The case of a principal foreman getting 5 *l.* a week and superannuation, may be somewhat different from the case of an ordinary workman getting 35 *s.* a week?—Yes.

453. You are not speaking as representing that class of engineers. There is a very great distinction between you?—Yes.

454. How did you become aware that there was this notice about superannuation. Did you read it on the board?—It was by Act of Parliament passing through the House.

455. How did you know of the Act of Parliament?—By watching the papers.

456. You watched the papers specially?—Not myself, other people as well.

457. But you were watching the papers specially?—Yes, when I was a young man.

458. Used you to watch the newspapers much more than the ordinary workman used to?—Oh no, I do not suppose for a moment I did anything of the sort.

459. Were you much of a newspaper reader?—Well, I should like to see a workman that does not read a newspaper.

460. Did you see this in the newspaper specially?—Well, you are going back 30 years.

461. You went back to 1861, and I must go back too?—Well, I took a very great interest in it at the time.

462. You did specially?—Yes.

463. But with regard to the ordinary workmen, are not they content with reading the notice boards as a general rule, to see what regulations are put up?—I do not think there were notice boards at that time.

464. How long have there been notice boards?—About 20 years.

465. Do you mean to say there were no notice boards before the year 1868?—I am not aware of them before that.

466. I was in the Arsenal in 1862 and 1863, and there were notice boards then. Just think over that. It is 25 years ago now. Do you mean to say there were no notice boards hung up about wages and so on before 1868?—The first I recollect about notice boards were those put up by Colonel Milward.

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Mr. BRODIE.

[Continued.]

467. Colonel Milward was there in 1870. Were there no notice boards before Colonel Milward's time?—I do not recollect seeing any.

468. Then your evidence is, there were no notice boards before 1869 or 1870?—I am not saying positively, I can only give you what I recollect; I cannot say positively at all.

469. *Chairman.*] When were you employed at Gosport?—About 1860 or 1861, and I was there about nine years.

470. You mean you went there in 1860 or 1861 and stayed there nine years?—About nine years; that would be to about 1869.

471. If you went there about 1860 or 1861 you would hardly be aware of what the men knew on the subject at Woolwich after the year 1861?—Not at Woolwich. I have said before I came here that I did not know.

472. *Mr. Walter James.*] You told me there was an agitation on foot in the Arsenal about the Act passed in 1873, which arose in connection with the case of Weaver and others. Do you remember that agitation?—Yes, I recollect the extension of the Act.

473. Do you recollect at that time whether there was any talk amongst the men about the Circulars of August and December 1861?—Yes; of course that was when it was gone into, and all men that were supposed to be entitled to pensions up to a certain date got it, and all the names were taken and put on a board.

474. You said, in answer to a question from the Chairman, that you thought the men had heard nothing and knew nothing about these two Circulars of August and December 1861?—That is quite right; I do not think they did.

475. If there was an agitation going on in 1870 for the extension of the Act, did you never hear any reference to the Circulars among the men at that time? No, I am not aware that I did.

476. *Mr. Fenwick.*] I think you said the first intimation you had of this change was in 1859?—We did not have an intimation of it at all; we had no intimation whatever; only taking note of what was going on.

477. Only by the newspapers, I think you said?—That is all, and discussing it in the shops.

478. *Mr. Wiggin.*] Then it was discussed in the shops?—Yes.

479. *Mr. Fenwick.*] Was there much discussion about it?—Certainly; I should say so.

480. What was the nature of your employment at that time?—I was a working engineer then.

481. You were not an official then?—No, I was not a foreman; I am not quite sure whether I was not doing duty as night foreman.

482. To the best of your knowledge you do not remember the Circular referred to ever having been circulated among the workmen?—Never.

483. *Mr. Wiggin.*] You say this question was discussed in the shops; is it your opinion that if there had been any doubt about the superannuation that the question would have been discussed in the shops; you say after 1859 superannuation was abolished?—Yes.

484. Was there any discussion as to its revival by Circular?—I am not aware of that.

485. Is it your impression that the men engaged after 1860 and 1861 were engaged with the full knowledge that superannuation had ceased?—Well, it was my opinion so.

486. That is your opinion, that the men engaged after 1861 were under the impression that superannuation had ceased?—Yes.

487. *Chairman.*] You were not there at that time, you were at Gosport?—I was in an outer branch at Gosport.

488. *Mr. Talbot.*] Were the same regulations in force at Gosport as at Woolwich?—Not quite so good, wages were less.

489. If there had been a notice affecting Woolwich, would it not have been sent to Gosport?—Yes.

490. Then a notice known at Gosport might be said to be known also at Woolwich?—Yes.

491. *Mr. Fenwick.*] Can you tell the Committee who employs the workmen? Do the foremen take on the fresh workmen, or who does it?—Yes, the foreman.

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Mr. BRODIE.

[Continued.]

If I want workmen I take them on myself, but I have to get authority from the superintendent through the manager.

492. Is it customary with foremen to inform fresh workmen that they will be employed with superannuation?—No, I have never done such a thing.

MR. WILLIAM CARTER, called in; and Examined.

493. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your present position at the Arsenal?—Messenger at the Royal Laboratory.

494. When did you enter the service?—1858.

495. Can you give us any information as to whether the men did or did not know in the first place of the Act of 1859?—As far as I know the men were well acquainted with it. How they became acquainted with it I do not know, but it was all the talk among the men themselves. That is how I came to know.

496. When?—In 1859.

497. Were you employed at Woolwich in 1859?—Yes, I was employed at Woolwich in 1859.

498. Were you there at the time?—Yes, and have been there ever since.

499. Did you hear anything of these Circulars in 1861?—Well, I cannot say I did; I do not recollect about the Circulars. It might have been the case, but still I have no recollection on that point.

500. After 1859, I understand you to say, the Act of Parliament stopping pensions, or altering the condition of pensions, was known amongst the men?—Yes, and then I recollect it being extended in 1861.

501. *Mr. Walter James.*] During the next ten years after the Act passed, that is to say between 1860 and 1870, was this subject a topic of conversation? Was it ever talked about among the men?—It was general talk that there would not be any pensions given after 1861.

502. They knew that, did they?—I knew it, and I know others did.

503. Did they know the reason?—I believe it was well circulated as far as my knowledge goes.

504. What was the reason that they knew?—I could not say what the reason was, but that was the talk throughout the department I know.

505. They knew they would not get it, but did not trouble themselves to find out the reason why they would not get it?—They said they were going to give the men a better wage by not giving them pensions.

506. Higher wages and no pensions?—Yes.

507. But not more than that?—Not more than that.

508. *Colonel Nolan.*] What were you before you became a messenger? Were you a soldier?—I was a labourer.

509. You were never an artizan workman; a skilled workman?—No.

510. Did you see these boards we have spoken of before 1869; before Colonel Milward's time?—I might have seen them, but I have no recollection about that.

511. When do you first recollect seeing boards hung up in the factory with notices of any regulations about wages or anything?—Everything that passes through the office, any alteration respecting regulations, are put up on the boards.

512. When did you first see the boards?—I cannot say; it is so long ago.

513. For the last 10 years have you seen the boards up?—Oh yes, for 20 years.

514. At what date do you first recollect seeing a board put up?—I think I might say 20 years.

515. But not more?—Well, I could not say.

516. Are not the boards very important things in the factory, and are there not a great number of them about?—Yes.

517. And you cannot recollect them more than 20 years?—I cannot say more than that.

518. Where do you generally stand in the Arsenal? do you generally stand near the offices to be ready to carry messages?—I am in the office.

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Mr. CARTER.

[*Continued.*]

519. And it is quite possible you know rather more about what is the news, and what are the letters that come down from London, than an ordinary workman who is looking after a steam engine or a turning lathe in another part of the Arsenal, is not that probable?—The notices are received in the office, and they are posted up on the boards.

520. What I am putting is this, that you would know very much more about what news comes down from London, and what regulations there are than the workmen who are attending to the fuses?—I do not see anything of the correspondence in the office.

521. But do not you hear about it more than the workmen?—I cannot say I do, not the correspondence; any notices that are put up I do, of course.

522. But with regard to any notices of this kind coming from London, are not you much more likely to know about them than the workmen?—Yes.

523. And you would be much more likely to know about it in the year 1859 than an ordinary workman, if it was not on the boards?—In 1859 I was not employed in the office altogether. I was only there three days a week in 1859.

524. In the three days a week you would be much more likely to learn about the news that came than the other men?—More so than the men working at the machines in the department.

525. So that it would be quite possible for you to know this, and be very likely for a number of the workmen not to know it?—Not if the notice was issued and posted up.

526. If the notices were put on the boards the men would know as much as you about it?—Yes.

527. But if they were not put on the boards you might know more than they about it?—Yes.

528. And you did not see the notices posted on the boards?—I might have seen them, but I have no recollection; it is so far back.

529. You have no recollection of seeing notices posted on the boards about the years 1859, 1860, or 1861; that is the general effect of your evidence, is it not?—Yes.

530. Do you believe they were posted up on the boards?—Well, that I would not say. I would not say a thing I have no knowledge about.

531. Still you were a messenger there, and going about and seeing the boards every day?—Yes. As far as 20 years ago is concerned all the notices that came there I saw.

532. Mr. *Wiggin.*] Do you consider that any men taken on between 1860 and 1870 would have known in the ordinary conversation and discussion going on in the factory whether there was superannuation or not?—Yes, I believe they would know.

533. Was it ever discussed in your presence?—Yes, it has been discussed in my presence.

534. And been the subject of conversation in the shops?—Yes.

535. Mr. *Fenwick.*] You say this subject has been considered in your presence by the workmen, and you also said, I think, that their opinion was that the superannuation was to be taken away and that they were to receive a higher rate of wages; is that so?—That was the conversation.

536. About what time would that be?—That I can hardly say. I cannot say what date it would be.

537. Would it be 1860 or 1861?—I think it might be after 1861.

538. Would it be 1862?—That I could not say.

539. Cannot you tell approximately. Would it be 1869?—No, it was before that I think.

540. Would it be 1865?—Well I think you might say 1865.

541. Can you say from your own knowledge whether any immediate advance of wages took place after 1865?—There were a great number of men put on piecework after 1865.

542. Was there any general advance of wages granted immediately after that time?—I can say this, that the men were taken on at a higher rate after that.

543. After 1865?—Yes.

544. Were the wages of the workmen that were taken on before 1865 increased?—Most of them were on piecework.

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MR. CARTER:

[Continued.]

545. But they were not all?—No.
546. Were the wages of day men increased?—That I could not say.
547. Colonel *Nolan*.] Who is the officer who can appoint messengers and dismiss messengers?—W. E. S. Oram.
548. What is he?—Principal clerk.
549. You are entirely under the principal clerk?—Yes.
550. If he wanted to dismiss you or to raise your wages, has he to refer the question to the superintendent or not?—He would refer the question to the superintendent.
551. But the superintendent would act upon his advice?—Yes.
552. *Chairman*.] When did you first know of the Circular of 1861?—I do not recollect anything about the Circular.
553. You do not recollect anything about it now?—No.

Mr. ROBERT FOSS, called in; and Examined.

554. WHAT are you?—Principal Foreman of the Small Arms Cartridge Branch.
555. When did you enter the Service?—10th March 1859.
556. When you entered the Government employ in 1859 where were you employed then?—In the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich.
557. Have you been there ever since?—Yes.
558. And are you still there?—Yes.
559. Do you know whether the men were or were not aware of the change of arrangement under the Act of 1859?—Only as a matter of conversation, as a matter of hearsay.
560. Was it a matter of general conversation?—I do not know whether it could be regarded as general. It had been spoken of, but I do not think the men were clearly aware of what the Act was, that is, they did not clearly understand as to whether they would be entitled or whether they would not to superannuation.
561. When did they become aware?—To the best of my belief, in 1870. There was a book of rules published then with a clause in it stating that men would not be entitled to superannuation after 1859.
562. Have you been in the room during the evidence to-day?—All the time.
563. You have heard us speaking of some regulations or notices sent to the Arsenal in 1861?—Yes.
564. Can you tell us of your own knowledge whether those were or were not known to the men?—I have no knowledge whatever of it.
565. I think you said the men did not know of the alteration of the arrangements till 1870 as far as you are aware?—They were not clear on the point. They were talking about the matter. Some were of opinion that they would get it, and some were of opinion they would not; but when the new rules were published in 1870 there was a clause in them that the men engaged after 1859 would not be entitled to superannuation, and then of course that settled the question.
566. In your opinion?—Yes.
567. Mr. *Talbot*.] Besides settling the question, did it give satisfaction or dissatisfaction?—I am not prepared to say.
568. Mr. *Walter James*.] Did you see a book of regulations made in 1861?—No; in 1870.
569. Colonel *Nolan*.] That was the first printed promulgation of the rule that you knew?—The first intimation of it.
570. To the best of your recollection, when were the boards first put up in the Royal Arsenal?—Oh, before my time.
571. And you came in in 1859?—Yes.
572. Then your recollection agrees with mine; before 1859, you say?—Yes.
573. *Chairman*.] Was there a book of regulations in 1859?—I have no recollection of seeing a book of regulations prior to 1870. That was the first book of rules that was published, as far as I recollect. There might have been books, but not circulated.

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Mr. Foss.

[Continued.]

574. Mr. *Walter James*.] Was it generally known to the men after 1861 that they were not entitled to superannuation?—They were not clear upon the point; some fancied that they would get it, and some that they would not. There was no definite idea at all.

575. Mr. *Alfred Gathorne-Hardy*.] It was doubtful?—It was doubtful. Nobody could say for certain, because nobody had got any official intimation on the matter, and therefore they could not say.

MR. HENRY WILLIAMS, called in; and Examined.

576. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—I am a Principal Foreman in the Laboratory at Woolwich.

577. When did you first join the service?—In 1854.

578. Were you employed then at Woolwich?—Yes.

579. Have you been employed at Woolwich ever since?—Not quite; I was away two years; but my last entry was June 1859.

580. You have been there since June 1859?—Yes, ever since.

581. Continuously at Woolwich?—Yes.

582. Was the Act of 1859 a matter of conversation among the men, or not?—Personally, I certainly heard conversation take place about the Act of 1859, but nothing official that I know of.

583. As to these Circulars that were published in 1861, were they made known to the men or not?—No, I think not.

584. Did the men get to know of them in any way?—Not that I am aware of.

585. Not as far as you know?—No. I certainly never heard anything about circulars myself.

586. Colonel *Nolan*.] How many men are under you, 7,000 or 8,000?—Oh, no; between 500 and 600 now.

587. How much do you get a year?—I get 5 *l.* 10 *s.* per week.

588. In civil factories do men in your position, with 500 or 600 men under them often get more?—Yes, I think so.

589. And yours is to a certain extent a dangerous occupation?—Not particularly. I am a mechanical engineer.

590. You do not go into the Small Arms Factory?—No, I am generally engaged on fuses, and that kind of thing.

591. A great many men in similar positions would have greater wages than that in some establishments?—Yes.

592. And you have been out for two years?—Only as a boy.

593. *Chairman*.] Was it generally known to the men in the Arsenal that men engaged after 1861 would not get superannuation?—I do not think they did know. I think there was great ignorance existing with reference to it.

594. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Did they know they were entitled to it?—I cannot say; but it is my opinion they did not know; they were not clear on the point.

595. *Chairman*.] Do you mean to say that they did not know that they were entitled, or did know?—They did not know whether they were or not.

MR. HENRY RONALD, called in; and Examined.

596. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—A writer.

597. Employed by the War Office?—Employed at the Royal Gun Factory.

598. Do you remember a man named Weaver?—Yes.

599. State what occurred with regard to a letter that he wrote asking for superannuation. Did he write it, or did you write it for him?—I drafted out one or two letters for him, in which he made application in 1870.

600. Did you draft it as a private friend?—As a private friend.

601. Did you suggest the wording of the letter, or did he suggest it to you?—I think I suggested most of it. We consulted together as to part of it.

602. The letter has been referred to, dated the 29th July 1870. It is headed "35, Walmer-road, Plumstead, S.E., 29th July," and is signed "George Weaver."

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Mr. RONALD.

[Continued.]

Do you remember whether you drafted that letter for him or not?—I should like to see it before answering.

603. The paragraph I want to call your attention to runs thus: "When I entered the Royal Gun Factories in the early part of 1860, there were doubts amongst the workmen as to whether they would be affected by the Act of 1859, and those doubts continued until the Circular, to which I alluded in my last letter, was issued in December 1861, which seemed to clear away all doubts." I want to know whether you suggested that paragraph to him, or whether it was written out of his own mind?—It is so long ago that I can scarcely say for the phraseology at the present time. I have no copy of it.

604. The first letter is a letter of the 14th June 1870, from George Weaver. There he says: "Having served over 10 years, I beg to apply for the usual superannuation granted for length of service, and in doing so I am aware of the Act of 1859; but from all I can learn on the subject, I cannot conceive that it was ever intended by that Act to deprive from its benefits those who from length of service would be entitled to superannuation, and I am confirmed in this by learning that a Circular was issued by the Secretary of State for War in 1861, to the effect that if there were any men who had entered the department since the passing of the Act, up to that time, who were under the impression that if they were in the service and conducted themselves properly they would receive superannuation on their discharge, he would take their case into consideration on receiving particulars." Did you suggest that paragraph to him or not?—I did; I dictated that letter, I drafted that letter.

605. Did you suggest that paragraph or did he suggest it?—Which paragraph do you refer to?

606. The paragraph with reference to that Circular of 1861?—Yes.

607. He says he knew of that Circular. I want to know, did you suggest that paragraph to him, or was it his paragraph?—I do not say there that he knew it in 1861. This letter is written in 1870.

608. All that means is, he did know it previously to 1870?—Yes.

609. But it does mean that he knew it previously to 1870?—Yes; I will not say how long previously to 1870, it might have been a little earlier.

610. Mr. *Walter James*] Were you a private friend of Weaver's, that you wrote that letter?—Yes, a private friend. I happened to be in the department at the time.

611. Do you often write letters to the War Office in connection with the matters of the Arsenal?—No, not outside of my official duties.

612. *Chairman.*] Had you previous knowledge of this Circular?—I will tell you all I know about it; it is very simple. Sometime between 1861 and 1870 that Circular came across me in my usual duties, and I saw that there was a paragraph in it, the last paragraph I think, referring to future superannuation, and as I was one likely to be affected myself, I thought I would take a copy of it, and I did take a copy of it, and I may have mentioned it to several people interested the same as myself who had entered the Department between 1859 and 1861. A few of them knew about it. I never promulgated it. Very little action was taken in the matter until a test case should arise. I knew myself that Mr. Weaver's case was the very first case that did arise, and I wrote the letter to raise the question.

613. Did you tell Weaver yourself of the Circular?—I know I told him before I wrote the letter that the Circular was in existence.

614. Mr. *Talbot.*] Do you think Weaver knew anything about it if you had not told him?—I could not say.

615. When you told Weaver did it seem to him to be news?—I cannot remember whether he knew of it before or not.

616. Cannot you remember when you told him if it produced the impression on his mind that it was something new or something he had heard of?—I daresay he may have heard of it previously.

617. Could you not say by his manner when you told him whether he knew of it before?—I really cannot say.

Monday, 27th May 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart.
Mr. Fenwick.
Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.
Mr. Walter James.

Colonel Nolan.
Mr. John Talbot.
Mr. Wiggin.

SIR JOSEPH BAILEY, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

SIR ARTHUR LAWRENCE HALIBURTON, K.C.B., re-called;
and further Examined.

618. *Chairman.*] I wish to ask you a question about the Act of 1859; will you kindly turn to the Act of 1859?—I think I am familiar with the Act.

619. You remember, I daresay, that the Preamble refers to various Acts of Parliament, ending with the Act of 1857, I think, which abolished the deductions from pay for pensions; but this Act seems to be based upon a variety of other Acts all referring to pension?—Yes, all referring to superannuation.

620. I understand that your men were not under any of these Acts, but under the Ordnance Regulations?—Yes.

621. How should your men understand that they came under this Act at all, or that they were affected by it?—I do not know how they should; in fact, they would not know it till the Treasury had decided whether or not they would come under Clause 2 of that Act.

622. Then I understand that though it might be a matter of discussion among them whether they did or did not come under it, so far as you know, they would have no means of arriving clearly at a conclusion upon that point till the Treasury made some decision?—Quite so, and that was one of the main grounds why the Treasury gave the men who entered up to 1861 pensions, because they said they could not know anything about it till that decision, which was given in August 1861.

623. Can you tell me what the amount of the pensions under the Ordnance Regulations was?—I can give you what the increase was, and I think the scale has already been given by Colonel Hughes. The increase under the Superannuation Act was 77 per cent. over the old Ordnance Rates. The men had to go much longer before they could get a pension under the Ordnance Rules, and the pension was a fixed amount, not increasing so much year by year. Under the Superannuation Act a man gets 1-60th of his pay for every year; if, for instance, he serves 30 years he gets 30-60ths, so that if his pay was 200 l. a year he would get 100 l. as pension, or if he served 20 years he would get 20-60ths as pension. But under the Ordnance Rules it was very much less than under the Superannuation Act; the superannuation was 77 per cent. higher than the old pension.

624. So that the man would get something a little more than half?—Yes, a little more than half but not exceeding two-thirds. The old pensions' rates are mentioned on page 13 of the printed Paper, beginning "Director of Artillery," which I have already put in.

625. Colonel Hughes points out second paragraph of that Memorandum gives the pension as 10-40ths after 15 years' service; and he further points out that 10-40ths is the same as 15-60ths, which would be the rate under the Superannuation Act; and in that case there would seem to be no difference, although there may be in some cases?—But it never went on increasing after that. The other went on increasing to 40-60ths. It is 77 per cent. more altogether.

626. Colonel Nolan.] In fact the longer pensions were bigger, and the short pensions were the same?—Yes, but under the Superannuation Act the man could obtain a pension sooner than under the Ordnance Regulations.

MR. WILLIAM E. S. ORAM, called in ; and Examined.

627. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—I am Principal Clerk at the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich.

628. We have been told that Colonel Milward said that the men thoroughly understood the facts with regard to superannuation. I believe you can give us some information upon that point?—On the 14th of December 1870, Colonel Milward wrote a Minute in reply to a letter from the War Office which Minute I think Sir Arthur Haliburton has put in. In that reply Colonel Milward said, "I cannot trace that any Circular was issued, but there is no doubt that all the circumstances were and are fully understood by all persons employed in this Department." I was present when the late Colonel Milward wrote that Minute. Before writing it he sent for the manager of the Department to ask him if he was perfectly satisfied that the change was known by the workmen; the manager replied in the affirmative, and on his statement Colonel Milward wrote that Minute.

629. Colonel *Nolan.*] Who was the manager?—Mr. Davidson.

630. *Chairman.*] That was in 1870, I understand?—Yes.

631. How do you connect that with the men, knowing it at an earlier date? The manager had been there all the time, but Colonel Milward had not.

632. I understand that the question Colonel Milward asked was, "Do the men know of this matter?" and the answer was, "Yes, they do know;" but that was in 1870?—He says, "There is no doubt that all the circumstances were and are fully understood;" the word "were" meaning, of course, at the time when the circumstances took place.

633. Colonel *Nolan.*] Is Mr. Davidson alive?—No, he is dead.

634. *Chairman.*] I understand you were present at the time of this interview?—Yes, I have a very distinct recollection of being present when Colonel Milward wrote this Minute.

635. Colonel *Nolan.*] Do you say that you heard these words of Mr. Davidson to the effect that he was perfectly satisfied the men knew of the change?—Yes, Colonel Milward, who had no knowledge of the subject himself prior to this date, called for the men whom he thought could give him correct information.

636. *Chairman.*] Have you read the whole of Colonel Milward's Minute?—No, the latter part of it is, "No applications have been made, and I am careful not to make any inquiry, as if I did so I have no doubt numberless claims would arise."

637. How do you account for his adding that?—Sir Arthur Haliburton points out that perhaps the letter to which that was a reply would explain it. That letter which begins "This is a very important subject" is given on page 11 of the printed Paper beginning "Director of Artillery," which has been already put in.

638. Is that all you wish to state to the Committee upon the subject?—I have had read the whole Minute that was written.

639. Colonel *Nolan.*] Colonel Milward had absolutely no knowledge of the Arsenal, had he, except what every field officer would know before 1869?—Yes, he had some knowledge because he had been Assistant Director of Artillery.

640. But the Assistant Director of Artillery does not live in the Arsenal, but has a room in the War Office, has he not?—Yes.

641. As regards Colonel Milward's position up to 1869, he was purely a War Office official, was he not, and not an Arsenal officer at all?—Quite so.

642. He was not in any way connected with the Manufacturing Departments up to 1869 or 1870 was he?—When he was Assistant Director of Artillery he had something to do with the Manufacturing Departments, inasmuch as all the Manufacturing Departments at that time were under the Director of Artillery, and in the absence of the Director all our correspondence would be signed by him.

643. Except that he might happen to be out on the Common, would he see the workmen working once in two months, do you think?—No, I do not think he would

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[Continued.]

644. Have you from your personal knowledge any reason to suppose that the men were aware that they were not entitled to superannuation at any date before 1870?—My impression is that they were aware of it after 1859.

645. What should make them aware of it?—Merely from their general knowledge; it was a public matter; I imagine that no other reason can be assigned for it, but that it was a matter that they were interested in, and it was a matter of public knowledge.

646. Mr. *John Talbot*.] We have had evidence that it was not known to the men?—I am not speaking of the Circulars; the Circulars were not published in the department; but I speak of the fact of the men not being entitled to superannuation as being a matter of public knowledge at the time.

647. Colonel *Nolan*.] Was it posted up on the boards in the departments?—No, it was not.

648. What dates were the boards?—I have traced one back so far as 1858.

649. One of the witnesses the other day said that he did not think that there were any boards before 1869?—I have found one in 1860, I should say not 1858.

650. *Chairman*.] Have you anything else that you wish to state to us?—No.

651. Mr. *Walter James*.] You stated that it was your impression that the men were aware of the fact that they were not entitled to superannuation?—Yes.

652. How did that impression convey itself to you?—It is merely a matter of opinion. My impression is merely this: that in all matters affecting the men, supposing for instance an Act of Parliament were passed to-morrow affecting their position in some way, I am quite certain that an intelligent working man would know as much about it as I should, or anybody.

653. Opinions are formed on matters of fact; what matters of fact are there that lead you to form that opinion?—I never heard any doubt expressed about it till these petitions were sent forward.

654. Did you hear it discussed among the men?—No, I am not in a position to hear discussions among the men, but it did not come before me officially in any way.

655. Then it is a surmise really on your part?—Quite so; I give it rather as my impression.

656. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] You say that your impression (and you put it quite frankly as being only your impression) was that the men were in some way aware that they were not entitled to superannuation after 1859; has your attention been directed to the speech of Mr. Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of the Royal Gun Factory, on the 10th of March 1860?—I am not aware that I have ever seen it.

657. Let me call your attention to what he said. Mr. Anderson was the Assistant Superintendent, and his information, I presume, would be likely to be better than that of the average workman upon a point of that kind, would it not?—I should say so, certainly.

658. He stated on that occasion that “one great advantage of being connected with a Government Establishment was the certainty that anyone who conducted himself with propriety might look forward to a comfortable superannuation.” That statement occurred in a public address that Mr. Anderson made to the men of the Arsenal on the 10th of March 1860; does not that rather lead to you to qualify the statement that in 1859 the men must have known that they were not entitled to superannuation?—I am only surprised that Mr. Anderson should have made that statement; I certainly could not have made that statement myself at that time.

659. Mr. *John Talbot*.] Were you in the room on the last day of the sitting of the Committee?—Yes.

660. Did you hear the evidence given by the men who were called?—I did.

661. Those men were actually engaged in the Laboratory during those years?—Yes.

662. They stated that they had no knowledge on this subject?—I beg pardon; they had not a knowledge of the Circular; but they had a knowledge that they were not entitled to superannuation. They are quite correct as regards the Circular.

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[Continued.]

663. Taking the evidence of Mr. Brodie: at Question 429 he is asked, "Do you know anything about the Circulars that were published in 1861;" and he says "No"?—Quite so, he knew nothing about the Circulars; the Circulars were not published in the Department.

664. Colonel *Nolan*.] That is quite clear is it?—Yes, that is admitted.

665. You are the official who would manage those matters are you?—I am the principal clerk of the Department, and if the notices had been published I should have known of it.

666. Were you there as principal clerk when Colonel Milward asked this question of Mr. Davidson?—Yes, I have been principal clerk for 33 years.

667. Was not Colonel Milward a sort of man who, when he was writing a letter, got any answer he liked out of his subordinates to put into a letter to the War Office?—I should say, certainly not, from my long experience of Colonel Milward. And another thing I may mention, namely, that if Colonel Milward had had any information or reason to believe that the men had not known of it, he would have been only too glad to put that in his Minute.

668. You do not think his connection with the War Office would make him likely to wish to back up the War Office view of the case?—I do not think so.

669. You think that he has no War Office traditions to keep up?—I believe he would have acted quite independently.

670. But you acknowledge that he was much more a War Office man than an Arsenal man?—Simply because he had been in the War Office, before coming to the Arsenal.

671. *Chairman*.] I am requested to ask you, do you know of an Order in the Laboratory telling the men that they were not entitled to superannuation, and did you not so state in a letter to Colonel Hughes?—Certainly not. If I said so or wrote to Colonel Hughes to that effect it was an error. My impression is that in talking with Colonel Hughes some months ago (when he had been looking into the matter very carefully, which I had not), I said that I thought a notice had been issued. I was thinking of the notice that had been issued in 1873, and I wrote afterwards to Colonel Hughes, when I found out my mistake, explaining my error.

672. Did you make a similar mistake as regards the date of the notices in your conversation with Mr. Stanhope?—Certainly not, because when Mr. Stanhope came down I showed him the notice I have just mentioned, dated July 1873, and I did not give him to understand that any previous notice had been issued.

673. Are you aware whether you have a copy of these Circulars among the Laboratory Circulars now?—I am able to state positively that both those Circulars are in our book, and are in their proper place, I saw them not a week ago.

674. Are they pasted in, or bound in order?—They were pasted in, but they were afterwards bound up together. I have not the book here, but I saw them not a week ago.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. CHARLES PIPER, called in; and Examined.

675. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—Principal Clerk in the Carriage Department.

676. How long have you been in the Carriage Department?—Since 1872.

677. When did you join the Arsenal itself?—In 1850.

678. Colonel *Nolan*.] What were you then?—A junior clerk.

679. *Chairman*.] There has just been handed to me "Rules and Regulations of the Carriage Department" for 1862, and on page 29 in print, it says, "All men entered in the department are subject to a week's probation," and then it goes on in manuscript, "and are to be informed that they have no claim to superannuation." Do you know anything about the addition of those words in manuscript

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[*Continued.*]

manuscript in this book?—I only know that it is the writing of the principal clerk, Mr. Fullom, but beyond that I know nothing about it.

680. Is he alive now?—No, he is dead.

681. When did he die?—In 1868.

682. What your evidence goes to prove is that this note in the margin was written before 1868?—That is the only evidence I have upon that matter.

683. Colonel *Nolan*.] Was that a book which he kept for his own use, or did he hand it round to all the workmen?—That was one which he kept for his own use; it was an office copy for his own private use.

684. Mr. *Walter James*.] Does that book come from the office?—Yes, from the Carriage Department Office.

685. Colonel *Nolan*.] In keeping a book of that kind is the office copy generally better posted up to date than the other ones that are distributed among the men?—No doubt any addition would first be made in the office copy.

686. They might all be copied into the other books or they might not?—They might not.

Chairman.] I understand that Colonel Hughes wishes this book to be compared with one in the possession of Mr. Travis of the same date. If Mr. Travis is in the room and has his book here, I should desire to have it handed up (*the same is handed up*). (To Sir Arthur Haliburton.) I observe that this book only contains 22 pages; page 8 of this book seems to be the same as page 28 of the other book, and on that page, article 3 is, "All men entered into the Department are subject to a week's probation;" that is the same sentence that I read before in the other book in print, but there it stops.

Sir Arthur Haliburton.] I can produce seven or eight books the same as that which have got it in. These smaller books, containing less pages, are the foremen's books which they use in engaging the men; and all those that I have here have this entry in; I was not aware that it was not in Mr. Travis's book.

687. Mr. *John Tulbot* (to Mr. *Piper*).] Can you account for the entries not being the same in the different books?—I had no personal knowledge of the matter at all at that time.

688. Taking the present time, would you expect to find the entries the same in the different copies of books of the same date?—At the present time each man has a printed copy himself.

689. Supposing it were necessary to make any manuscript addition in consequence of an alteration in the Regulations, would that manuscript alteration be made in all the copies?—I should say so, certainly; it would be an accidental omission if it were not.

690. If you found in a previous edition of this book that the manuscript addition is in one copy and not in another, what would you say?—I should say it was an accidental omission.

691. If the manuscript addition was in one copy, and other copies are produced in which it is not found, that could hardly be accidental, could it?—I should imagine that all these books were collected, and the additions made, because the handwriting in all the foremen's books is in the same writing; apparently that book of Travis's was omitted to be sent in or collected.

692. Your idea is that this is a single specimen in which the addition was not made?—I am not aware of any other.

693. Mr. *Fenwick*.] Have you any evidence to show that the books were collected, or that any orders were issued that they were to be collected?—None whatever.

694. Colonel *Nolan*.] When were these orders about the duties of the Assistant Superintendent in the Arsenal which I notice in this book, issued?—I am given to understand that the book of 1862 was the first book in which they were published.

695. I observe that various duties of the Assistant Superintendent are put down here; that he is to sign all examination papers, for instance, and there are other orders. When was there an order issued that the Assistant Superinten-

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[*Continued.*]

dent should sign all examination papers ; what was the date at which that order was issued ?—I cannot say as to that. That is the first book that contains it.

696. It is in manuscript here. What I want to know is, when was that order issued, because it could not be entered in manuscript here antecedent to the order being issued. I think that is rather a late order, and I find it entered in this book ; I find several things about the duties of the Superintendent, which I imagine were late orders, and not about 1862 or 1863, and if those things were entered in the book subsequently, the others may have been entered subsequently ; but you cannot give me any information as to the dates of those orders, I understand ?—No.

697. *Chairman* (to Sir Arthur Haliburton).] I think that is a very important matter ; have you any evidence that would throw light upon that point ?—If the Committee think that point important we could have it looked up. I looked upon it that we were only concerned with one entry in that book, and that we wanted to give that as being before 1870 ; we have proved that it was the handwriting of a man who died in 1868, and therefore that entry is before 1870 ; and the outside of the book which is marked “ Revised, 20. 5. 64,” is evidence to show that the last recorded revise is in 1864.

698. I understand that you have several other books of the same sort ?—Yes, I will hand them in through another witness.

699. (To Mr. Piper.) Can you give the dates at which the workmen signed Mr. Travis’s book ?—No, I cannot ; I was not aware of the existence of that book till this question arose.

700. I understand that it is contended that the note which you have identified as being in Mr. Fullom’s writing is not his writing ; are you positive that this is Mr. Fullom’s handwriting ?—As far as it is possible to swear to writing which one did not actually see written, I am positive that that is Mr. Fullom’s writing.

701. Is this paper (*handing a paper to the Witness*) in Mr. Fullom’s writing too ?—I should think not ; the signature is, but not the writing in the body.

702. There is some manuscript opposite page 9 in Mr. Travis’s book ; in whose writing is that ?—I have no idea at all.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. CHARLES SHIPMAN, called in ; and Examined.

703. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you ?—Chief Examiner of Carriages.

704. Were you foreman in 1866 ?—Yes.

705. And principal foreman in 1867 ?—Yes.

706. Do you produce your book of the Regulations of 1862 ?—Yes (*handing in the same*).

707. On page 8 there is a manuscript note, “ And are to be informed that they have no claim to superannuation.” Did you write that ?—No.

708. When did you receive this book ?—In 1866.

709. Was it written there when you received it ?—I am not sure.

710. When was it written ?—I believe it was written in 1866, either before I received it, or shortly afterwards.

711. Do you know whose handwriting it is in ?—I do not.

712. Were the men informed that they were not entitled to superannuation ?—All those that came under my authority read it for themselves in the book, and signed the book afterwards.

713. Do you consider that it was generally known amongst the men at that time that they were not entitled to superannuation ?—Every man had the same facility for knowing it that I had myself. It did not affect me in any way, and I knew of it.

714. Did the men read this book or did they sign it without reading it ?—They took it away and read it in some quiet place in the shop, and then brought it back to me and signed it ; that was the mode of procedure.

715. Can you tell me what date these names began ; I observe No. 378, George Warren is the first entry ?—From M’Coy onwards (I have a distinct recollection

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recollection of the man M'Coy entering; he is a foreman now) they followed as they were entered.

716. I notice the fourth person here, John Rathbone, is entered as superannuated; do you know when he entered?—No, that was before the book came into my possession. I received it from foreman Dane.

717. You received it in 1866, I understand?—In 1866. I was assistant to Daniel Dane, the foreman.

718. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] You say that you can fix the date approximately because you know when a man called M'Coy entered; when was that?—About the middle of 1866, May or June, I should think it was.

719. *Chairman* (to Sir *Arthur Haliburton*).] Do I understand you to say that you cannot fix the date of the entry in any of the other books, and that you have no knowledge of the other books?—The writing is the same in them all; it is this beautiful small writing, but I cannot get any answer as to whose writing it is.

720. Colonel *Nolan* (to Mr. *Shipman*).] You say that when a workman got that book he would go into a quiet corner of the shop and read it over?—Yes, in the shop that I have charge of.

721. What shop would that be?—The fitters' shop.

722. What sort of roof has it?—It has a skylight.

723. Do you think that in a quiet corner of that place any workman could possibly read that writing?—Yes.

724. Do you think that any workman when he has got such fine writing as that to read, when he has got only 10 or 12 minutes, could spread out that little bit of manuscript and read it (and there are several bits in manuscript), or would he not just read the printed matter and sign the book; do you think he would take the trouble to read that book all through, from cover to cover?—Yes.

725. And every man that signed that book read the whole, you think, manuscript and all, from cover to cover?—I think so.

726. You are quite sure that in an ordinary place they would have light enough to read it?—Yes.

727. *Chairman*.] I hold in my hand one of the books from the Master Wheeler's Office; Charles Baker was one of the master wheelers; and this is John Watkin's book, and after four entries, paragraphs 34, 35, 36, and 37 in this very beautiful small writing which the Committee have heard spoken about, comes paragraph 38 in manuscript, which says that no person entered after 1859 is entitled to superannuation. Have you any knowledge of this book (*handing a book to the Witness*)?—I have no knowledge of any book but my own.

728. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] You have told us that you can identify the date in this book by the name of a man named McCoy; will you please show me where that name is (*handing the book to the witness*)?—That is it (*pointing it out*).

729. You are able to identify the name of McCoy, which is No. 841, as having been written, when?—In 1866.

730. That is almost the beginning of your time?—Yes; while I was a leading hand, before I was made foreman.

731. Colonel *Nolan*.] How long has that book been in use; what is the latest entry in it?—I cannot tell you; it left my possession and I have no knowledge since then.

732. What date did it leave your possession?—I have not the slightest idea.

733. Could you tell us within ten years; was it about 1880 or 1885?—I do not know when it was.

734. Can you tell me, within ten years, when the book left your possession?—It dropped out of my possession; and I never thought anything more about it.

735. You have been giving details about a curious little bit of handwriting in it, yet you cannot say within ten years when it left your possession?—I should

should imagine that it left my possession in 1875, when I shifted from the shop. I must have left it behind me.

736. Mr. *Gathorne Hardy*.] You identified this book with the No. 841 as being written in 1866?—Yes.

737. Can you tell me whether that name, in the book produced by yourself, was about the first man that you engaged, or whether there were many men before that?—I should imagine that there were several.

738. You think there were several before M'Coy?—I should imagine so.

739. This is the book which it was your duty to keep as foreman?—Yes.

740. It was given to you, I understand, when you became foreman?—When I was leading hand; I was acting foreman, and that book was in my possession then.

741. Will you take this book in your hand, which has been identified by Colonel Hughes as Mr. Travis's book. Mr. Travis was in the same position as you were in the office, was he not?—I do not know whether he was at that time, but he was shortly before or afterwards; I forget which.

742. At any rate, he was foreman at about the same time that you were foreman?—Yes, I believe so.

743. If you turn to the same page in which the entry occurs in your book you will find it is absent in that book. On page 8 the manuscript note, "are to be informed that they have no claim to superannuation," is absent, is it not, in that book of Mr. Travis's?—I do not see that paragraph at all; it says, "All persons who are, or may be, employed in this Department must conform to the following regulation."

744. In fact, the manuscript note is not there?—No.

745. Can you point out any other differences between that book and the book you have put in. Just look at that book of Mr. Travis's, and see if there is any difference from the ordinary books which are kept by the foremen. If you take your own book in your hand, and look at the entry on page 14, Rules 34, 35, 36, and 37; if you now look at Mr. Travis's book you will find that those are absent there?—Yes.

746. *Chairman*.] Do the men sign one of these books when they are engaged?—If the foreman neglected his duty they would not see them at all. It was not imperative that they should sign them, but the foreman was supposed to do his duty.

747. Is it the fact that a number of men do not sign any book when they enter?—I cannot say.

748. I have had a book handed to me, which I understand is Mr. Andrews's book; will you kindly look at it, and see whether the names of the men here are in the same handwriting; they are all in one handwriting, are they not?—Yes, I should think they are.

749. That would be the handwriting of the owner of the book in all probability, would it not?—They are a great deal alike; I should say that they were written by one person.

750. Colonel *Nolan*.] Used you to send in your book periodically to the clerk's office to let him look at the book, or did you keep the book in your possession from the time you got it till you gave it up?—I kept it unless something else required to be written in.

751. It occasionally got into the office of the clerks of the Carriage Department to be looked into and corrected, did it not?—I suppose so.

752. Would the clerks be in the habit then of making any fresh entries and fresh orders?—The books would only be sent in for that purpose.

753. Would they not want to see the names?—They never did.

754. Are you able to say whether between 1870 and 1875, when I understand you think you gave up that book, your book never was in the office?—I cannot say.

755. But you cannot say that it was not in the office between 1870 and 1875?—No, I could not.

756. Would not those entries be filled up in a great hurry; for instance, whenever any difficulty arose at the War Office, and some inquiry was sent down

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down from the War Office to the Carriage Department, and a letter written to the department, would not all the clerks be in a great hurry to see whether their books were duly written up?—Yes, I should think so.

757. Such an affair occurred between 1870 and 1875, did it not?—I do not know.

758. Do you not know enough of the history of the case to know that?—No.

759. Was not attention called to this matter between 1870 and 1875?—I do not know.

760. You have no definite recollection whether reference was made to the Carriage Department between those years?—I have no knowledge.

761. Might not that entry have been made between 1870 and 1875?—It might; I do not mean that that might be so as regards that entry about superannuation; I mean there might be entries made during those years.

762. I cannot arrive at how it is you fix that it could not be made between 1870 and 1875, when you have got such a dim recollection about the whole book that you do not know, within 10 years, when it was given up?—That question is easily answered. That particular name which I identified is the name of a personal friend of mine; and we have been friends from the time he entered till the present day.

763. I am talking about these marginal entries; how do you fix the date that they were put in?—Because it has been the subject of frequent conversation between myself and this man, M'Coy, all that time during 20 years; and his regret was that he was not entitled to superannuation.

764. This was the case of a particular man who was a friend of yours?—Yes.

765. I suppose you knew the thing very much better than an ordinary workman knew it?—I do not think so.

766. Would not a foreman know these rules better than an ordinary workman?—I do not see how he could.

767. Does he not keep the book in his possession, and could he not see it at any time?—Yes.

768. Does not he talk to the clerks; I suppose the chief clerks would not talk to the workmen, but they might talk to the managers and foremen, would they not?—No, except on business.

769. *Chairman.*] Can you fix the date of that small writing, in the case of entry as to superannuation?—No, I cannot.

770. You cannot even say whether it was before 1866—Yes, I can. I can say that it was in 1866, when I had that book.

771. How do you remember it was in 1866?—By the entry of that man's name and the conversation we had together so many times, showing clearly that he had a knowledge that he was not entitled to superannuation. That imprinted it upon my mind.

772. *Colonel Nolan.*] Could not these conversations have taken place in 1870?—There have been frequent conversations.

773. Since 1870?—Yes.

774. Those conversations might have all taken place since 1870, might they not?—I think not.

775. Yet you cannot fix within 10 years the date that you gave up the book?—As I have said, I think it was 1875; I simply left the book behind me when I was promoted to a different position to the best of my knowledge.

776. *Mr. Fenwick.*] You said just now, in answer to the Chairman, that you cannot fix the date of this manuscript writing?—I cannot fix the date.

777. Yet you said just now it was 1866?—To the best of my knowledge and belief it was in the book before I received it.

[The Witness withdrew.]

778. *Chairman (to Sir Arthur Haliburton).*] I believe you can now hand in the book into which the circular of 1861 has been pasted, which has been asked for?—Yes (*handing in the same*).

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[Continued.]

MR. CHARLES PIPER, recalled ; and further Examined.

779. *Chairman.*] A BOOK has been handed to us which is called " Office New Regulations, 1861 and 1862 ;" I observe that the last entry in the book is the 19th of February 1862, which will give, I suppose, approximately the date of the book. The Circular 729, the War Office Circular of the 17th of December 1861, is pasted in and unnumbered ; what would you infer from that ?—I can explain how it got into the book, but why it was not originally put in I have no idea. After I joined the Carriage Department, in 1872, as principal clerk I found miscellaneous papers left by my predecessor, and I looked through them from time to time to see what were of value and what were not. Amongst those papers I found that circular. I immediately referred to the book to see whether a copy was in it ; I found it was not, and I immediately had it put in. That is the explanation of how it was put in.

780. That is in 1872 ?—Yes.

781. Colonel *Nolan.*] From your knowledge of the office, would not it be possible that at the same time they had put in this circular they wrote up the books also ?—They would not index them at the same time.

782. But I mean wrote up these marginal references about superannuation ; is not that the time that the head clerk would do it ; when he was correcting one book, would he not also send to the foremen for their books and see that they were properly written up ?—The book itself was printed after that, and it was not embodied, so that the inference is that the manuscript addition must have been later.

783. Have you been in the habit, in your office, of writing, from time to time, marginal notes into the foremen's books ?—Such a book has not been in use since I was there ; each man has his own copy now. That book was practically obsolete when I came.

784. I presume they did not find the plan answer of letting the foreman hand the book to a workman, and letting him look at it for half-an-hour in a quiet corner in the shop and read it, or not read it, before he signed ?—Each man has had his own book since 1872.

785. Before 1872 the only way that a man could learn the rules, except what he saw upon the boards, was that the foreman gave him a book for half-an-hour, and he went into a quiet corner and read it or not, as he liked, and put his name to it ; is not that so ?—That I have no knowledge of whatever ; indeed, I did not know of that book being in possession of the foreman till this question arose.

786. There was no copy of the rules at that time in the possession of each man ?—Not in the possession of each individual man.

787. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy.*] Colonel Nolan has suggested that these marginal notes might have been written up in 1872 ; was not it the case that the first book you put in was in the handwriting of the principal clerk, who died in 1868 ?—Yes.

788. Colonel *Nolan.*] Do you mean the whole of the entries in that office book ?—Yes, in the office copies.

789. *Chairman.*] I hold in my hand the " Regulations for Artizans and Labourers in the Royal Carriage Department," printed in 1872 ; that contains in print the rule that a workman is to be informed that he has no claim on the Government for superannuation. That book, I understand, is now given to every workman since that date ?—Every workman has a copy and signs for the receipt of it.

[The Witness withdrew.]

790. *Chairman* (to Sir *Arthur Haliburton*).] Have you any other evidence that you wish to call ?—I have books containing circulars from two other Departments, which I was asked by Colonel Hughes to produce. These are from the Laboratory and Gun Factory, which I hand in on behalf of the War Office, at the request of Colonel Hughes (*the same are handed in*). I have also witnesses here who will speak as to the rates of wages.

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[Continued.]

MR. RICHARD EDMONDS, called in; and Examined.

791. *Chairman.*] WHAT position do you hold?—Manager of the Gun Factory at Woolwich Arsenal.

792. When did you go to the Gun Factory?—In November 1859.

793. You are still there?—Yes, I am still there.

794. What have you to tell us as to the rate of wages?—I was asked to get out the rate of wages that we were paying our artificers and our machinists in the year 1860 and the year 1870. I have here a list showing the number of men and the rates of wages paid at that time, and also the rates of wages we are paying at the present time.

795. We do not want to know what you are paying at the present time; but will you tell us what you were paying in 1860?—In 1860 we had 72 men at 39 s. 8 d.

796. *Colonel Nolan.*] Who was the superintendent at that time?—In 1860 Sir William Armstrong was the superintendent, but Sir John Anderson was the assistant superintendent; he was the resident acting superintendent, so to speak. In 1860 there were seven artificers and machinists at 39 s. 8 d., and in 1870 there was one man. At 37 s. 4 d. there were 49 men in 1860, and 15 men in 1870; at 35 s. there were 334 men in 1860.

797. *Sir John Talbot.*] Does the fact of there being fewer men at the same rate of wages at the later date merely show that the Government were working at less pressure?—It shows that we were very slack at that time.

798. *Chairman.*] I do not think the numbers in 1870 will help us, if that is so?—Putting it shortly, the rate of wages in 1860 was from 8½ d. per hour for 56 hours, or 39 s. 8 d. a week to 4½ d., or 21 s. a week.

799. *Colonel Nolan.*] Will you give us what these men are technically called?—I could not give you the number of each; but they are fitters, turners, borers, planers, drillers, and boiler-makers, &c.

800. *Chairman.*] In your opinion, were these the full market rates of wages, or not?—Those were the rates we were paying in the Arsenal. I do not know what you may term the full market rate, because you must recollect that in addition to this these men were getting piece-work.

801. They did not get that pay when they were doing piece-work, I understand?—They get more than that; when they are working piece-work they get nearly time and a-third.

802. When they are working on piecework, how do you settle what they are to have on piece-work?—By the amount of work that they do. Each particular operation has a price.

803. *Mr. Wigg.*] What would be the average of their weekly wages, including what they got for piece-work?—A man who was getting 35 s. a week would probably get about 11 s. in addition on piece-work; that would make it 2 l. 6 s.

804. *Chairman.*] In your opinion, would the men get more or less if they were for a private firm?—They would get less, because they would not be on piece-work; very few shops are on piece-work.

805. *Mr. Fenwick.*] Does Elswick work on piece-work?—Very little indeed.

806. To what date does your information extend?—My date is from 1859 to the present time.

807. Would you be surprised to know that the workmen in Elswick work very largely by piece-work?—I only know that Captain Noble in his evidence here, two years ago, said that they did as little of it as they could because they had trouble with the men.

808. Would it be a surprise to you if it could be shown that a very large number of the Elswick workmen work on piece-work?—No, it would not be a surprise to me.

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809. You

809. You have no positive information of your own knowledge to give us upon that point, I understand?—I have it only on the statement of Captain Noble.

810. Colonel *Nolan*.] It is only from the published evidence that you get that?—Yes.

811. In other shops besides the gun-shops do not the drillers, borers, planers, and boiler-makers particularly, very often work on piece-work in other trades?—Frequently they do, but not generally.

812. Mr. *Walter James*.] If you contrast the position of a workman in a private firm with that of a workman in the Government Department at Woolwich, which of the two is the best off?—We have not the slightest trouble in getting as many workmen as we require. I should think that the man who was working at Woolwich would be the better off; he gets piece-work, and he gets sick pay, and he gets holidays.

813. *Chairman*.] Do you engage your men?—No; we can send them away at a minute's notice.

814. You are in the Gun Factory, I believe?—Yes.

815. Can you tell me whether the men were informed there whether they would have superannuation or not?—I do not think that they ever were.

816. Before 1859 they did have pension, as I understand?—They did have pension, but I do not think they were even told then.

817. Mr. *Fenwick*.] What do you consider the market rate of wages to men?—Personally, I consider the market rate of wages to be that at which you can get men to work. There is a rate of wages which you might call the trades union rate; some people consider that the market rate of wages, but I think the rate at which you can get a man to work is the market rate.

818. You would not consider the trades union rate of wages a fair rate if you could get men to work for less?—If I could get men to work for less I should consider it fair, but also at the same time I should consider the trades union rate a fair rate also.

819. Supposing that a man's necessity compels him to take less than the trades union rate, would you still consider that the market rate of wage?—Yes.

820. Do you see any difference in the two cases?—I consider that if you get a man to do work for any money that is the market rate then made by that man. The rates made by the trades union societies are fictitious rates and are forced up to a certain extent.

821. By whom?—By the trades unions.

822. Beyond what the trade is able to pay?—I would not say beyond what the trade is able to pay, but beyond what they would get if there was not such a union.

823. Beyond what they would get if they had not got the force behind them to defend themselves?—Yes.

824. *Chairman*.] At any rate we have your opinion that in your judgment the market rate of wages is that for which a man can be got to work?—Yes.

825. Subject, I suppose, to there being other inducements held out?—Subject to other emoluments such as sick pay and holidays. I know we have had no trouble in getting men to work.

826. Mr. *Walter James*.] As I understand, you do not think, with regard to the market rate of wages, it would be possible in any trade with which your departments are connected to lay down any hard-and-fast rule?—We know this, that some of our men sometimes, if they do not get a certain rate of wages, are compelled to leave by their trade societies.

827. Colonel *Nolan*.] As to the rate you fix for piece-work; if you find not only one man but a good many men earning so much, say, for instance, double what you consider to be a fair day's wage, do you not reduce your price for your piece-work?—If we find men earning double the ordinary day rate, we begin to think the price for piece-work is too high. If we find only one man earning double the ordinary day rate we should not consider it too high, because we should say that it is due to his skill.

828. It

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828. It has been frequently the case, has it not, in the Arsenal that the rate of piece-work has been reduced when that state of things has been discovered?—Decidedly.

829. Has that more or less produced a tendency among the men not to do so much piece-work, because they know that if they earn too much the rate of piece-work will be reduced?—There is no doubt that it does produce that tendency.

830. Among the men?—Yes.

831. So that the maximum amount of work that could be done by piece-work is not done in the Arsenal for that reason?—Not necessarily so, because the foremen and managers have to look after the work and see that there is a proper amount done for the money.

832. But there is a public opinion among the men that too much hard work should not be done, because if several men were found to be earning too much the rate would be cut down, and it has been frequently cut down, if there is such a thing found out?—There is such a private combining amongst the men, you may say.

833. Mr. Wiggins.] The same feeling influences men in other factories, I suppose?—Yes, of course.

834. Chairman.] In your opinion were these men engaged at the full market-rate?—There is nothing said to the men about whether they are going to have sick pay or holidays. When a man comes to us we see what the man can do, and according to the manner in which he works, his rate is fixed.

835. Do you consider that your rate is the same as other firms pay?—I know that men coming to our place leave frequently, and we find that they have been receiving more money than we give them; I do not mean more money than they would get from us altogether, but for the day-rate.

836. Mr. Fenwick.] When you engage a man do you tell him what rate of pay he is going to receive?—No.

837. How do you know that that is the amount he is willing to work for if you do not tell him what rate of pay he is going to receive?—We do not tell a man what he is going to receive till we see the manner in which he can work.

838. Do you find that some men leave as soon as they know what you are going to pay them?—Very rarely.

839. But you have found men do so?—We have done so.

840. In that case you would not say that that was the market-rate of wage?—No.

841. Chairman.] Do you recognise the name of H. Gardiner as that of a man in the Arsenal?—Yes.

842. He entered the Arsenal in 1866, did he?—Probably; he has been there a long time.

843. Do you know whether it is true that he entered at 35 s., and was previously receiving 36 s. from another firm?—I do not know of my own knowledge, but I can find out; I think it is quite probable. I have no doubt that he would be put down at 35 s. at that date. If a man were to enter now he would be put down at 36 s.

844. In answer to Question 277 on the last occasion, an answer of Colonel Maitland's, given before Lord Morley's Committee, is quoted, in which he says: "From time to time I send round to certain private firms to ask them what the rate is, but there is also a constant means of comparing by knowing what they have been paying the men that we take on;" will you explain what means of comparison you have?—Every man, when he is taken on, is asked where he was working the last time, and then that firm is written to to ask his character and the cause of his leaving, and the rate he was working at when he left there; and, of course, when we get the replies we have the information at the Arsenal, and those characters are kept, and we could turn up the case of any man (unless it happened that the paper were lost) who has entered the department, and find out how much he was earning before he came.

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[Continued.]

845. That being the case, do you find, as a matter of practice, that you give the men the same as they have been getting from private firms, or more or less?—Very often we give them less, and very often we give them more. I frequently have characters coming to me where a man was getting 7 *d.*, for instance, we will say, and it is recommended to me by his foreman that he shall have 8 *d.*, and he writes on the paper which he sends to me that the 7 *d.* the man was getting was the highest rate of his district; because you are aware, of course, that the rates in Manchester, Leeds, and Newcastle, are very different from those in the London district. A man who may be getting 6 *d.* there would get here 7½ *d.*, for instance. So that we have both cases. We may give a man less money than he had been previously getting, or we may give him more money than he had been previously getting.

846. Taking them all round, should you think that you give them less or more?—Taking them all round, we give them rather less, I should think.

847. Why do you give them rather less?—Because we have the rate in the Arsenal; our rate at the present time is 8 *d.*

848. Why should they work for you for less than they work for private firms?—There are other advantages besides the rate of pay.

849. What other advantages are there?—One is the hope of continual employment; another is that they would get five holidays during the year; and another is that after they have been there three years they would receive sick pay; another is that if they have any accident they would get what is called full injury pay at once.

850. Were they also looking forward to superannuation?—I do not think superannuation was mentioned. These are mentioned though they were known.

851. What do you say is well-known?—The hope of constant employment, the sick pay, and the holidays.

852. Do you think that they did or did not expect superannuation?—Of course now they do not expect superannuation. What date do you speak about?

853. I mean at any date before 1870?—I should think they would expect it then.

854. Up to 1870 you think they would expect it?—I should think so.

855. What makes you think that they expect it up to 1870, and no longer?—I should say that if it was thought by other people that those who were working in the place were entitled to superannuation, those people, when they came in, would think they would be also entitled.

856. Mr. Fenwick.] Is the fact of a man's continual employment in any way dependent upon his conduct or behaviour in the factory?—Quite.

857. Do you think that that is so in other private firms as well?—I should think so.

858. So that the inducement is as great in private firms as in the public factory, is it not?—Except that private firms fluctuate more than in the Government factory.

859. Do you think that a firm like that of Lord Armstrong, at Elswick, fluctuates more?—You could scarcely call that a private firm; that is an exception among private firms, but I do not know, looking at it in that way, whether the men would not go there with equal facility with which they come to us, for the same reason.

860. If the employment depends upon the men's behaviour or good conduct, you would not say there was an exceptional inducement held out to a man in a Government Department that was not equally held out to him in a private firm, since both are alike made to depend upon his behaviour?—If there were the same likelihood of the firm keeping full of work, of course they have the same likelihood of having constant employment from a private firm.

861. Colonel Nolan.] You never had a strike in the Gun Factory, had you?—Yes.

862. Was it a large one?—Not very large.

863. What was it confined to?—We have had one or two.

864. What

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864. What were the dates of them?—Perhaps I ought to explain what we mean by a strike. For instance, I recollect many years ago, when certain prices of piece-work were reduced, two or three gangs of men refused to work. I should call that a strike amongst those gangs, although it was not a general strike amongst the whole body. Again, in 1861, when the price of turning down a gun was reduced from 16 s. to 13 s. some seven or eight men left.

865. But that you would not call a strike, I presume?—They left for that reason. They had been receiving certain money; and when it was reduced they said that they would throw up the job, and they went.

866. You get their places filled up, I suppose; you would not call that a strike?—Practically we have had no general strike.

867. Practically there has been no strike in the Gun Factory; and one reason was that the workmen thought that the Government would always keep them on:—That may be one reason; but I think there is another reason.

868. But that you think would be one reason?—That would be one; the other would be quite the opposite view of it.

869. *Chairman.*] Can you tell me what unskilled labourers between 1861 and 1870 were earning in the Arsenal?—In 1860 they were getting 16 s. 4 d. and 15 s. 2 d. a week; in 1870 they were getting 18 s. 8 d. and 16 s. 4 d.

870. Can you say what they were earning at these two dates in private firms?—I do not know; but I should think more than that.

871. *Mr. Wiggin.*] Do you undertake to give the men full time in your department?—No, we give no undertaking.

872. Are they ever on short time?—Yes, sometimes; for instance, they may be in this way: supposing in a certain shop the work is running short, we have some good men, and we do not want to discharge them, and so we pick out a few men, say a dozen, and say we will suspend them for a week for want of work; the next week we would let them come back and send out another dozen, and so on; so as not to let the suspension be thrown on only a few men, but divide it generally throughout the shop.

873. Then they do not go on half-time four or five days a week, but they are paid full time while they are there, and then a week off?—Yes. In the forges, where that cannot be done, we should work it four or five days a week only; it has been done on several occasions.

874. Do you find a desire on the part of the workmen to get into Government factories, and to leave private firms?—Yes, we do.

875. As a rule it is preferred to working for private firms, is it?—I can only say we have no trouble in getting men.

876. *Mr. Fenwick.*] You said, I think, that generally you pay the men less than they may have been receiving from private firms; why do you do that?—Because what we give them are our rates, and the privileges they get besides make up the value.

877. When you pay a workman less than he has been previously receiving from a private firm, would it be fair to say, in that case, that you take advantage of his necessity?—No, I do not think so.

878. *Chairman.*] Do the men generally work upon piece-work?—In 1865 we had 76 per cent. of our men working piece-work, and in 1870 we had 78 per cent.

879. How much more than the day rate do they generally earn in that way?—Between time-and-a-quarter and time-and-three-eighths.

880. What is the value of the holidays and the sick-pay taken together?—Taking last year, I find the holidays are worth 1·84 per cent., and the sick-pay 1·12 per cent. The total wages in 1887-88, was 192,183 l., the holidays that same year were worth 3,425 l.; the sick-pay was worth 2,089 l.; if you work that out, you find the holiday is worth 1·84 per cent., and the sick-pay 1·12 per cent., and, putting them together, you get 2·96 per cent.; that is nearly 3 per cent. If a man was earning 33 s. a week, then the emoluments are worth 1 s. a week more.

881. *Colonel Nolan.*] Is such work as rifling a gun done by piece-work?—Yes, almost every gun is rifled by piece-work.

882. *Mr. John Talbot.*] When you speak of the value of the holidays, do

you mean what the men would have earned if they had work on the holidays?—No, I mean what would have been paid to them if they had been paid at their day rate.

883. You mean that you give them certain holidays in the year, and you pay them the same as if they were working on those days?—Yes, the day-rate for those days.

884. Mr. *Fenswick*.] Do you make any deductions for sickness?—No.

885. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Do they pay when on sick-leave?—They get sick-pay according to the time they have been employed; if they have been three years they get half-pay; if they have been 10 years they get three-fourths; and after being three years they get one month, after 10 years two months, and after 15 years three month's continuous pay; but we make no reduction as to the wages.

886. *Chairman*.] The calculation of the per-centage of sick-pay and holidays was based on the amounts for last year, I understand?—Yes, in 1888. I may observe that bank holidays are not holidays with us. If we send out the men on Whit Monday, and do not pay for their time, I do not call that a holiday.

887. *Chairman*.] Taking the bulk of the labourers, those working at 16 s. 4 d. and 15 s. a week, which is admitted to be less than they get outside; do the bulk of them work on piece-work also?—I do not know about the bulk. I daresay half have piece-work, and perhaps half not.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Mr. ALEXANDER ANDERSON, called in; and Examined.

888. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—Manager of the Laboratory Department.

889. When did you go there?—In 1872.

890. Were you employed at Woolwich before that?—No.

891. What can you tell us about the time between 1860 and 1870?—Nothing from personal experience. I can only tell you that I have looked up the records as to the rates of pay of workmen between the dates of 1860 and 1870, and I can tell you what I find in those records.

892. What do you wish to tell us with regard to that; have you the scale of rates there?—I have got the rates of fitters, turners, and labourers between those dates, and I find that the rates of the fitters and turners varied in 1860 from 28 s. to 37 s. 4 d., that is, the day-work rate. In 1870 the maximum and minimum were the same as in 1860, but a larger number on the maximum rate.

893. Can you compare those rates with the rates given by private firms?—No, I cannot.

894. You have no other knowledge of the question we are considering, I suppose?—No.

895. Can you give us the proportion who were then working on piece-work?—The proportion of those who were working piece-work then was 60 per cent. I have not taken the total numbers.

896. What number of men were working at that time; do you know the number approximately?—No, I have not got the number here.

897. Can you tell it us approximately from your knowledge of the work?—No.

898. You know about how many workmen are employed now?—About 6,000 are employed now in the Laboratory Department, including boys.

899. How many were there when you went there; about the same?—No, there would not be above half that when I went there in 1872.

900. At all events we may take it that there were more than 1,000 men working there at that time?—Yes.

901. Colonel *Nolan*.] How much do you say that the turners received?—£. 1. 17 s. 4 d. was the highest day-work rate.

902. Did they sometimes receive as low as 35 s.?—Yes; are you speaking about the present time?

903. I mean about four years ago?—Yes.

904. Mr. *Wiggin*.] What kind of work would it be; would it be machinist work or chemical work?—It is turners, ordinary engineers, and fitters' work.

905. *Chairman*.]

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905. *Chairman.*] What is included in the laboratory?—All the shot and shell, torpedos, fuses, small arms ammunition &c.

906. *Colonel Nolan.*] Is that piece-work?—It is nearly all piece-work.

907. When a man is first put upon machinist work for shot and shell, is not his pay only 21 s. a week sometimes?—Yes, when they are strangers; 21 s. is the day-work rate when they first come.

908. It takes some years for the rate to rise to 26 s. or 28 s., I suppose?—No, not many months.

909. What would you say to Mr. Low's opinion, would he be able to give a good opinion?—Yes.

910. Would his opinion be nearly as good as yours?—Yes.

911. Is not the effect of his evidence before Lord Morley's Committee what I have been putting to you?—Yes, but you are speaking about the day-work rate; I misunderstood you; I thought you meant to convey that when they first entered they could only earn 21 s., and nothing extra on piece work.

912. The day rate would be only 21 s. when they first entered, would it not?—Yes.

913. Afterwards it would rise to 26 s. or 28 s. for the turners, would it not?—Yes.

914. *Mr. Wiggins.*] At present, with 21 s. a week day rate, a man might make 27 s. a week with piece-work, I presume?—Yes, and as a rule they do.

915. *Chairman.*] Can you tell us how many earn 28 s. and upwards out of this large number?—I cannot tell you the number.

916. Can you tell us about how many?—I said the fitters and turners got that; I have not got the total for fitters and turners.

917. How many would there be at 28 s.; would there be a dozen?—Yes, more than that.

918. How many more?—Probably 300 or 400.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. JAMES M'GEE, called in; and Examined.

919. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—Manager of the Small Arms Factory, Enfield.

920. When did you go there?—I went there in 1856, and I went away in 1863 for a year and a half and returned again late in 1864.

921. Have you got the rates of the men working in your Department?—Yes; in 1860, the rate for first-class men was 42 s.; turners, 39 s.; millwrights, 36 s. to 33 s.; moulders, 36 s. to 33 s.; carpenters, 30 s.; and first-class labourers, 21 s. to 18 s.

922. Can you tell us how that would work out as against private firms?—In the Small Arms Factories I should say it would be about the same.

923. You think that the men at Enfield were paid the full market rate?—Yes.

924. You were there at the time with regard to which we are now engaged, I understand; can you tell us whether the men, in your judgment, expected superannuation, or not, at that time?—I did not hear about it; I did not hear whether they expected it or not.

925. When you first went there they all had pension, had they not?—Yes.

926. What reason had they to suppose that it was all going to cease?—I do not think they had any reason; I do not think that they were informed that it was to cease.

927. Do you think they still expected it?—I could not say.

928. *Colonel Nolan.*] You were at Enfield from 1856, and you never knew that the workmen were informed that this superannuation would cease, I understand?—No.

929. *Chairman.*] When you say that they earned about the same as is earned in private firms, do you mean these rates *plus* piece-work rates?—Piece-work price would be a time, and a third on that.

930. That is about one-third more?—Yes.

931. Do you mean that these men with their piece-work earn just the same as the people outside, or that the rating is the same as the people outside?—

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931. Do

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The gun trade is very different from the ordinary engineer trade; the men go to gun factories, and they are in some cases more and in some cases less; a good barrel man would earn more money, and they frequently leave us and go to Birmingham, or to Bow, or somewhere else.

932. Colonel *Nolan*.] Some of the barrel men would be paid more by private firms than they are paid at Enfield?—Yes, the good men.

933. Do you not work at smaller dimensions?—No; if they work for the Government they have to work to the same dimensions; it is interchangeable work they have to make.

934. It is one to two-thousandth, is it not?—One to three-thousandth.

935. *Chairman*.] Was there a manager there of the name of Barnes in 1862?—Yes.

936. He is not alive now, is he?—No, he is dead.

937. Do you mean that the earnings of your men are about the same as those of the men in the gun trade?—Yes, in the military gun trade.

938. Colonel *Nolan*.] Is it the same as the good London gun-makers give?—The London gun-makers, what you would call the sporting gun-makers, would give more.

939. How many miles are you from London?—Fourteen miles.

940. Mr. *Wiggin*.] A sporting gun is a more highly finished instrument, I presume?—Yes, sporting guns are done by hand mostly.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. FREDERICK TATTON, called in; and Examined.

941. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—Assistant Manager, Royal Carriage Department.

942. When did you go there?—In 1852.

943. How long have you stayed there, till now?—Till 1869, when I was transferred to Portsmouth.

944. And went back from Portsmouth to Woolwich?—Yes.

945. Have the rate of wages that the men were earning about 1860 or 1861?—Yes. Of fitters, and other trades, 64 men were rated at 30 s. 4 d. per week, which was the highest rate at that time. In 1869, 32 men were rated at 35 s. per week.

946. I do not think we need trouble you for the numbers, unless there is some point which you wish to emphasize?—The rates ranged from 25 s. 8 d. to 35 s. per week.

947. Can you tell us how they work out against what private firms were giving?—The rates were rather lower, about 35 s. per week was paid by private firms in the London District.

948. The Government day rates would be rather lower?—Yes. The rates paid by private firms no doubt averaged 35 s. per week, or probably a trifle more.

949. What date are you speaking of?—From 1860 to 1869.

950. Do many of your men work at piece-work?—Yes; in the year 1865–66 we had 46 per cent. on piece-work; and in 1870–71, 65 per cent.

951. Is it the same with you as with others, that they would earn about one-third more at piece-work?—They only earned a fourth more in those years.

952. Colonel *Nolan*.] Used you not between 1860 and 1870 to turn out better wheels in the Carriage Department than you could get of a private firm?—Yes, we did.

953. And always thought so?—Yes; we considered so.

954. Were you not anxious to keep a staff of workmen together who could make good wheels?—Yes.

955. You would not trust any private engineering firm to make the wheels—Not for gun carriages; but a large number of wheels for transport vehicles have been supplied by private firms.

956. You thought your work was by far the best, and it was necessary to keep that staff of workmen together?—Yes.

957. That

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957. That necessity possibly has disappeared now. There is more metal work, so that the necessity for good wheels disappears?—The necessity for good wheels is the same, if metal naves or wood naves be used; and our experience is that wheels supplied by private firms are much inferior to Government manufacture, both as regards quality of workmanship and material.

958. You were there at the time when all these matters were discussed which we are now inquiring into. You were there from 1859 onwards?—Yes.

959. Can you tell me whether in your judgment the men expected superannuation after that date, 1859?—It is my impression that they were not entitled to superannuation after that, but I have no direct evidence to prove it.

960. What I want to know is what was their opinion; were the men expecting it. I do not ask you whether they were entitled to expect it, but were they expecting it?—Well, I thought not, and that is my impression at the present time.

961. Mr. *Wiggin*.] Was the subject ever discussed among the men in the shops or the factories?—It had been spoken of, of course, in the shops, but it is so long ago I cannot remember what discussions took place.

962. What is the general impression on your mind as to the result of the discussion?—My impression is that the men who joined after 1859 did not expect superannuation.

963. That is your own impression?—Yes.

964. But do you know what the impression on the minds of the men was?—I cannot answer for the men as to the impressions they may have had.

965. Colonel *Nolan*.] Was it ever placed up on boards in the Carriage Factory that they would not get superannuation?—Not to my knowledge.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. RICHARD WARD, called in; and Examined.

966. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—Mechanical writer.

967. Where?—In the Carriage Department.

968. When were you first employed there?—1866. I joined on the 15th November 1866.

969. And have been there up to the present time?—Yes.

970. With regard to these matters in 1866, what have you to tell us?—Only that I entered the Department, and there was no notice given whatever about superannuation at all. Being previously employed in the Department, and having left and rejoined in 1866, I considered myself still entitled to superannuation, having no intimation to the contrary.

971. You last joined in 1866?—Yes.

972. Did you have one of these books of regulations given to you to sign?—No; not until 1869, when I signed under foreman Travis.

973. You signed Travis's book?—Yes.

974. And we shall find your name in that book, I suppose?—Yes.

975. Colonel *Nolan*.] Why did you sign in 1869; was there an order issued that you should sign?—I entered the Department as a wheelwright, and when the introduction of iron carriages took place there were several men whom they selected and transferred to different workshops as fitters, or smiths they were termed then, and we had to sign a book on entering the shop under a new foreman.

976. There was a change of system from wood to iron for the gun carriages?—Yes.

977. And that made them put everything in order again, and they made every one sign these books?—Yes.

978. Then a lot of books were signed about 1869?—I should think so. Speaking for our particular shop I should say they all were.

979. *Chairman*.] Can you find your name in Travis's book?—Yes, there is my name.

980. Your name is about half-way through the book?—Yes.

981. Mr. *Fenwick*.] What is the date?—

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982. *Chairman*.] Google

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[Continued.]

982. *Chairman.*] There are no dates in the book. You say you signed this book about 1869?—Yes.

983. This book has not the Circular in it?—We were made fully acquainted with the contents of that book previous to signing.

984. But were you told you were not to expect superannuation?—Not at all; I considered I was entitled, as I had been entitled, when I was in the Department before.

985. *Mr. Talbot.*] You signed that book three years after you entered?—Yes.

986. And then at the time, 1869, there was nothing about superannuation in the book?—Nothing at all.

987. *Mr. Gathorne Hardy.*] You say you joined in 1866, can you tell me who your foreman was at the time you joined?—Unfortunately, he is dead.

988. What is his name?—Mr. Card.

989. *Mr. Talbot.*] Did you sign another book in 1866?—No, I signed no book previous to that one of Travis's.

990. *Mr. Gathorne Hardy.*] You have shown us you did sign this book in 1869. Was it not the custom of the workmen when they entered to sign a book?—Not at all; only one book at the office.

991. But it was the custom of the workmen to sign the foreman's book when engaged?—No, it was not in 1866.

992. Just look at those four or five foremen's books. Do you recognise those books?—Yes, some of them. They have nothing to do with where I was employed.

993. Are those books connected with the Carriage Department?—Yes.

994. What distinction do you make between your employment and that of other workmen?—The particular book referring to my trade as wheelwright is not here.

995. When you say it was not the custom of those engaged to sign a book when entering, you refer only to the trade of a wheelwright?—I cannot refer to any other. I was not concerned with the whole of the Department.

996. You first told me it was not the custom to sign a book on engagement. There are a variety of books in which other workmen of the Carriage Department did sign, and when I ask if they sign a book on engagement, your answer to me is that does not refer to your particular trade?—There is no date when these people signed this book.

997. I think you are getting a little bit away from the question. I am asking you whether when you look at these books you can say it is or it is not the fact that as a rule in the Department the men did not sign the book on entering?—I cannot say so truthfully. The only book I know we signed was a book at the office in the charge of the principal clerk. When I joined there I signed my correct name and address under principal clerk Fullom, and that is the only book I have any knowledge of signing until I signed that one of Travis's. That was in 1869, and I joined in 1866. I do not know when the men's names may have been signed in that book.

998. There you are arguing with me. I want to know, as a matter of fact, what your evidence went to. At the present moment you tell me you, as a wheelwright, did not sign any book on entering?—Not any book at all like that.

999. Then why do you suppose the wheelwrights signed this book in 1869?—We were transferred from wheelwrights to fitters at that time. We shifted our trade to iron-workers. We were transferred from wood-workers to iron workers at that date.

1000. Then what it really comes to is this, that the wood-workers would not have signed a book previous to 1869?—I can only speak for myself; individually, I did not.

1001. *Colonel Nolan.*] Were there many branches of woodwork besides that of wheelwright?—Yes.

1002. And in the organisation each foreman would organise separately, and you would not know what was going on under other foremen?—No.

1003. You would be very seldom in their shops?—Yes. I should not be allowed in at all except on business.

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[Continued.]

1004. *Mr. Fenwick.*] You never signed any book until you were transferred from the wheelwrights to the fitters?—Not at all to my knowledge.

1005. Have you any knowledge as to whether fitters were required before that date to sign any book?—I have no knowledge whatever.

1006. *Chairman.*] You are one of the present applicants for superannuation?—Yes.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. GEORGE MASTERS, called in; and Examined.

1007. WHAT are you?—At present?

1008. Yes?—I am holding the position of Chief Engineer to the Hydraulic Establishment, Royal Arsenal.

1009. When did you enter the Royal Arsenal?—First as a lad in 1860, I entered the Royal Gun Factory.

1010. Have you been there ever since?—No; I have been in and out on two or three occasions, but I entered the Royal Carriage Department in 1866. That was my last entering in the Arsenal.

1011. Did you sign the regulations on entering?—I signed a book in the main office; there is no other book that I have any recollection of signing.

1012. You have seen the little books that have been produced; those are books of regulations?—Yes.

1013. Did you sign one of those?—Not to my knowledge.

1014. Have you ever since signed one?—Not to my knowledge. I do not remember ever having seen one.

1015. *Mr. Talbot.*] If you had signed you would remember?—Yes, I suppose so; but I have no recollection of ever having signed a foreman's book.

1016. *Chairman.*] When you entered were the men aware that they would not get superannuation?—I was not.

1017. As far as you know were the men aware of the fact?—No.

1018. *Mr. Gathorne-Hardy.*] Who was your foreman in 1866?—Mr. Smith.

1019. You cannot say whether you did or did not sign?—I should not like to swear positively I did not; but I have no recollection.

1020. Can you tell me what shop you were in at the time?—It was the fitter's shop.

1021. And Mr. Smith was your foreman?—Yes; he is a well-known man in the Carriage Department. There is no difficulty about tracing him. He was master-fitter, I think.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. HENRY TRAVIS, called in; and Examined.

1022. *Chairman.*] You are the owner of this book we had put in, and which we have called Travis's book?—Yes.

1023. What are you now?—Foreman of erectors.

1024. When did you enter the Royal Arsenal?—In 1859.

1025. Have you been employed there ever since?—Yes.

1026. When were you first made foreman?—In 1869 I was made foreman.

1027. Then it was in 1869 that you had this book, I suppose?—Yes.

1028. This is a book that was given you in 1869. How do you account for there being nothing as to superannuation in this book?—I cannot account for it at all.

1029. That is the book as it was given to you?—Yes.

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1030. Were

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[Continued.]

1030. Were there any name in it when you had it?—Yes; there is a blank leaf I think between the first lot of names and the second lot. The second lot were signed in 1869 under me. The others were signed previously under another foreman.

1031. You do not know when the others were signed?—No; they were signed under another foreman.

1032. Who did you get this book from?—It was handed down to me by the foreman I succeeded in 1869.

1033. You did not get it straight from the office, but from the other foreman?—Yes; it came from the other foreman.

1034. There are several names in the book?—There were two other foremen.

1035. Mr. *Talbot*.] You said you never heard about the discontinuance of superannuation?—No: not to my recollection.

1036. Did the people about you; the men in your department; know anything about it, do you think?—I think not.

1037. Mr. *Gathorne Hardy*.] Who did you succeed in 1869?—Mr. Tatton.

1038. *Chairman*.] Is that the Mr. Tatton we have seen here to-day?—Yes.

1039. Then you had this book from him?—Yes.

1040. It was the book he was using, there are two other names on the book, you see?—

1041. Mr. *Wiggin*.] When did you first know that superannuation had been discontinued?—Not until 1872.

1042. Mr. *Fenwick*.] Did you hear of Weaver's case in 1870?—No; I have no recollection of it.

1043. So your first intimation of superannuation being withdrawn was in 1872?—Yes.

1044. Had you ever heard the workmen talking about superannuation being withdrawn before that?—No, not to my recollection.

1045. *Chairman*.] Have you any interest in this question?—Not in the least. I entered in July 1859, and consequently I am entitled.

1046. Your case is already settled?—Yes.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN, called in; and Examined.

1047. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—Foreman in the Royal Carriage Department.

1048. When did you enter the Service?—Entered in Royal Gun Factories, January 1861. Discharged on reduction, October 1862. Re-entered in Royal Carriage Department, November 1866.

1049. Did you sign the foreman's book when you entered the Service?—Not that I am aware of. I signed a book in the office at that time.

1050. That is a book with names and addresses only?—I believe so.

1051. You did not have a regulation book to sign?—Not that I am aware of. I do not remember signing one.

1052. Have you signed any one since?—I have signed my name once or twice on paper in the foreman's office, but what for I cannot now say.

1053. You are now foreman yourself; do you engage men?—Yes.

1054. Do you give them a book of that sort to sign?—No.

1055. You have not got a book of that sort?—I have not one.

1056. How is that?—I cannot say. They are given a book of rules.

1057. In your judgment did the men in 1866, when you entered, know that they were not to have any superannuation?—I think not. Personally I did not know it.

1058. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] Who was your foreman when you entered?—Mr. Smith.

1059. Then you are in the fitter's shop?—Yes, fitter's and turner's.

1060. Mr. *Fenwick*.] I think you said you have signed your name several times since in the foreman's book; were not you told why you were asked to sign your name?—I have no recollection of being told why. I do not think I signed

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[Continued.]

signed anything on the pension question; it was merely in answer to rules being given out, and I believe that that was not further back than 1872 or 1873.

1061. Would you be very willing to sign your name unless you knew why you were signing?—I think as a rule workmen do not trouble themselves much if it is a matter of routine; I find it so.

1062. They do not ask the reason why?—No; as an instance lately, I have given out rules, and many of the men came and signed their names and went away without their rules, and had to be called back to take them.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. JAMES TAYLOR, called in; and Examined.

1063. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—A fitter.

1064. When did you enter the Service?—January 1862.

1065. What was your opinion as to the superannuation when you entered; that you were or were not to get it?—I was under the impression that I should be entitled to it after 10 years' service. I was never told the contrary, and I was always under the impression.

1066. Mr. *Talbot.*] Did you sign any book?—Not when I first started; there were no books for us at all to sign in; I am referring to the Gun Factories.

1067. When did you sign a book?—The end of 1870.

1068. Not before then?—Not before then. I did not know anything about it till then.

1069. When you signed did it state anything about superannuation?—I might probably state that I knew nothing about the contents of it. The book lay on the desk and I signed it, and there was nothing more said. That was about three weeks or a month after I started.

1070. In 1862?—No, at the end of 1870.

1071. I thought you said you entered in 1862?—Yes.

1072. Then you say three months after you started you signed; I do not follow you?—No, Sir, it was about eight years after I started, but it was in another department.

1073. When you signed the book in 1870, was there anything said about superannuation?—Nothing at all.

1074. When did you first know superannuation was suspended?—Some time in 1872. Then we began to understand that we should not be entitled, but I finally knew it in 1873. I was ordered to get my time transferred from the Gun Factories to the Carriage Department, and I did so, and then I was informed that I should not be entitled to superannuation, on account of not starting soon enough. It was about a month too late; a month after the 19th December 1861, but that was some eight or nine years after.

1075. So until the year 1872 or 1873 you did not know?—I did not know till then, at least not finally, that I should not become entitled.

1076. Not finally, you say; had you known partially before then?—Well about six months before that, when I was ordered to get my time transferred. There was a rumour about in 1870.

1077. Are you quite certain that you did not know up to the year 1870?—Yes. No authority had been given on the subject, none whatever. I never had any authority about it until I got my time transferred, and that was in 1872 or 1873.

1078. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy.*] Was your foreman Mr. Smith?—Yes.

1079. You, Travis, Masters, and Chamberlain, all appear to have been in the fitter's shop?—Yes.

1080. And all had the same foreman?—Yes.

1081. Can you tell me any distinction between the fitter's shop and the workmen in the other parts of the Carriage Department?—No, there is none. There are a good many classes of workmen, wood-workers and iron-workers.

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1082. The

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1082. The witnesses all apparently come from the same branch of the Carriage Department; were you a wheelwright?—No, an iron-worker, a fitter in the iron trade.

1083. Were you an iron-worker from the first time you went in?—Yes.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. ROBERT TURNBULL, called in; and Examined.

1084. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—A turner.

1085. When did you enter the Service?—In 1866.

1086. Did you sign one of these books in 1866?—No; I signed a book in the office when I started; a large ledger.

1087. Were you aware you were not entitled to superannuation?—No.

1088. Did you think you were or not?—Well, I did not know; it was never mentioned to me whether I was to be or not.

1089. Were you engaged at the full market rate of wages; the same as you would get elsewhere?—No.

1090. Why did you take less?—Because I was obliged to. I wanted a job, and had to take it.

1091. *Mr. Walter James.*] What would you call the full market rate of wages?—When I was working outside I was receiving 36 s. a week. That was in the Thames Iron Works, and when I came to Woolwich, I got 32 s. 8 d., 7 d. an hour.

1092. *Chairman.*] Why did you take it?—I had no option but to take it; I wanted a job.

1093. *Colonel Nolan.*] And besides you were hoping to get superannuation, were you not?—I did not know anything about that. Nobody told me whether I would get superannuation or not.

1094. *Mr. Gathorne-Hardy.*] Who was your foreman?—Mr. Shipman.

1095. *Mr. Talbot.*] When you were in the works between 1866 and 1870, was the subject of superannuation discussed?—I never heard it.

1096. What was the general impression among the men. You do not know apparently whether they expected it or not?—No.

1097. *Colonel Nolan.*] Did you hear before you went to Woolwich that the people there got permanent employment, and that the workmen were provided for in their old age?—Yes.

1098. You did hear that?—Yes.

1099. Was that one of the reasons that you took work in the Arsenal?—That was the reason I went to Woolwich to look for work thinking it would be a prospect for me in my old age.

1100. You did not know anything about the superannuation rules, but you had some general idea that the workmen were provided for in their old age?—Yes.

1101. *Chairman.*] Were you employed on piece-work when you went there?—Yes, sometime after I started work on piece-work.

1102. Did you make a little more than the rate of wages at that?—Yes.

1103. How much more?—Sometimes a quarter and sometimes a third more.

1104. *Mr. Fenwick.*] Was the 36 s. you received in the private firm for piece-work?—No, for day-work.

1105. So when working piece-work, you worked harder?—Yes.

1106. And you received a quarter, or it may be one-third more?—Yes, on the 32 s. 8 d.

1107. *Mr. Gathorne-Hardy.*] Is this your signature in Shipman's book "Robert Turnbull"?—Yes, that is it.

1108. You said you had not signed a book, but you must have signed a book, for here is your signature, No. 940. You said that you signed no book except one in the office. Look at page 8, and read what is in the margin?—"And he be informed that he have no superannuation."

1109. That

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1109. That was the book that you signed?—Yes.

1110. *Chairman.*] Can you tell me when you signed this book?—Sometime after I was in the works they come to me to sign it.

1111. Mr. *Walter James.*] Do you remember signing it?—I remember Mr. Shipman coming and saying that there was a man left, and there was a bother about him leaving, and not giving notice to leave, and he said we would have to sign a book, and I signed that book.

1112. Colonel *Nolan.*] Then the only object in signing the book was that if a workman left without notice they could prosecute him if he had signed that book?—Yes.

1113. And if he had not signed that book they could not prosecute him?—No. We were sent for to sign, because Norman Kendall left, and had given no notice. They could not stop him, because he had not signed the book, and they said all the men must sign the book.

1114. Did you read the book carefully?—No, it was put on the foreman's desk, and he said, "You must sign the book."

1115. You merely thought you were signing a book about giving notice?—Yes.

1116. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy.*] You say you signed this book, but not on entering. Can you tell me when you signed that book?—I cannot say whether it was two or three years afterwards.

1117. Can you say it was as much as two years afterwards?—I could not possibly say.

1118. You entered the place in 1866?—Yes.

1119. And you cannot say whether it was two or three years afterwards?—No.

1120. But certainly, when you had been there two years?—I could not say whether it was two years. If Mr. Shipman could tell you how long it was after Kendal left I could tell, I think. Kendal and me joined at the same time, and there was a bother about Kendal leaving, and Mr. Shipman said we should have to sign a book. He said Kendal had never signed, and they had no power over him because he had not signed.

1121. Mr. *Talbot.*] When you said you did not sign any book except the large ledger, you were inaccurate?—No; when I started I said. I said when I first entered I signed a large ledger.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. CHARLES SHIPMAN, re-called; and further Examined.

1122. *Chairman.*] THIS book which has been produced is your book, I understand?—Yes.

1123. Can you tell me when you first had this book?—In 1866.

1124. You have already given evidence with regard to it?—Yes.

1125. Mr. *Talbot.*] Do you remember Turnbull, the last witness, signing that book?—No.

1126. You cannot remember his doing it?—No.

1127. Do you remember Simpson signing it, or any of the men whose names appear about that time?—I remember the individuals that signed, but I could not give you the dates they signed.

1128. Not even the year of their signing?—No, I could not have told, if I had not heard the last witness say, whether he entered in 1866 or 1867.

1129. Colonel *Nolan.*] Do you remember the circumstance of a man named Norman Kendal leaving without notice?—No.

1130. Do you remember that man's name?—No, I did not know he worked under me.

1131. He did not sign under you?—Then I should not know it.

1132. Mr. *Talbot.*] Do you know when that manuscript note was put in the book?—I believe it was put in in 1866.

1133. Mr. *Walter James.*] When you ask the workmen usually to sign the book, do you think they read the book or look at it, or sign it off-hand?—My

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mode of procedure was to give them the book, and leave them to read it or not as they liked. If they come to me I ask whether they read it before they sign their name.

1134. Mr. *Talbot*.] Did you draw their attention to that manuscript?—No.

1135. Mr. *Walter James*.] Do you think they did read the book?—I believe they did.

1136. Colonel *Nolan*.] All of them?—If I had a book given me to read I should read it before signing.

1137. But you are a foreman. We have had a deal of evidence that the ordinary workmen sign pretty well anything put before them. Do you believe the ordinary workmen, if you gave them a paper in the shop to sign, would sign without troubling about it?—I believe some workmen would do it.

1138. *Chairman*.] But at all events you gave it them and they had the chance of reading it if they liked?—Certainly.

1139. Was it on the 8th October 1866 that you became foreman?—At the end of 1866. I was leading hand and acting foreman previously to that.

[The Witness withdrew

MR. JOHN M'COY, called in; and Examined.

1140. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—An engineer.

1141. When did you enter Woolwich Arsenal?—In 1866.

1142. Who was your foreman?—A man named George Revell was my foreman at the time; he is dead.

1143. Was anybody else acting as foreman then?—Yes, Mr. Shipman was leading hand.

1144. He is a personal friend of yours, is he not?—Well, yes; we have been acquaintances for a long time.

1145. When you entered did you sign a foreman's book?—Not when I entered.

1146. When did you?—About a month or six weeks after I joined.

1147. In 1866?—Yes.

1148. Was there anything about superannuation in that book?—Nothing at all. I never heard the rules read, and I did not read them.

1149. If you did not hear them read, how do you know there was nothing about superannuation?—I simply signed the book as I did anything else. If you were to ask me to sign your book now, Sir, I should probably do so. The men in that department are not supposed to ask what this and that is for. I wanted employment at the time, and I did not know what book it was, nor did I know what was in it; I never read the book.

1150. Did you consider then whether you were going to have superannuation or not?—I did not think either way. All I wanted at the time was employment. I did not know whether they gave pensions or whether they did not.

1151. Mr. *Gathorne-Hardy*.] You signed this book when it was presented to you?—I signed a book.

1152. What did you think the book was?—Well, I really did not know. I never had any intimation what the book contained.

1153. Had you no idea when you signed the book what it contained. Not the slightest. I signed with others. I was not the only one to sign at the time.

1154. You saw there was some printing and writing in it?—I could not say to the best of my recollection whether there was or whether there were two blank leaves together. I know I signed my name, and that is all I know.

1155. Do you seriously think you did sign with the two blank leaves together?—I could not say whether they were or were not. I only know I signed my name, and that is all.

1156. Did you know this man Shipman, who was a foreman while you were there?—Yes.

1157. Did

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[Continued.]

1157. Did you have any conversation with him on the subject of superannuation?—Not at the time.

1158. Did you have any conversation with him about superannuation before 1870?—No, I could not say that we had.

1159. We have had Mr. Shipman here. Will you say definitely that you did not have a conversation with him before 1870 in which you stated that it was a pity you were not entitled to superannuation?—I never made such an assertion.

1160. That you say positively?—Yes, I never made such an assertion, Sir.

1161. Did you say anything?—We might possibly be speaking about pensions, and what a good thing it was; but as regards making an assertion of that description I never did.

1162. Did you have a conversation about superannuation with Shipman at all before 1870?—I could not say that we had.

1163. Can you give me an idea one way or the other?—No, I could not possibly say that we had any private conversation about pensions before that time.

1164. If Shipman declared that you did have such a conversation are you prepared to say he was wrong?—I should be prepared to say this, that I have no recollection of it, not before 1870.

1165. Why do you fix the date of 1870?—I could not say; I would not attempt to do so. If I cannot speak the truth I will not make assertions I cannot speak to.

1166. Mr. Talbot.] When you signed this book, which you say you signed at the request of Shipman, did you consider it to be merely an admission book or a book of rules?—I should have taken it to be an entry book myself. I was simply signing my name with others who had joined the department.

1167. Colonel Nolan.] When you entered the Arsenal at Woolwich, had you a general idea that the workmen in the Arsenal were on the whole rather better provided for in their old age than workmen outside in civil factories?—No, I never gave it a thought at all. When I joined the Arsenal I merely joined for employment.

1168. Mr. Walter James.] Have you a pretty good memory. Do you recollect things pretty well?—Moderately; I must not boast.

1169. Then you might have had a conversation with Shipman, and might have forgotten it?—I might possibly have had; I could not say positively, because it is so long ago. We have had various conversations at times on the matter, but not as regards anything about this book of rules.

1170. Do you think the majority of workmen with whom you have worked, when they signed a book of that kind take the trouble to read it?—No, they just sign their names.

1171. And do not take the trouble to read it?—They might possibly if they had the privilege of looking at them.

1172. Have not they the privilege of looking at them?—No, I never had for one; I never had the book in my possession at all; I had merely to sign my name.

1173. Mr. Talbot.] Do you mean that the book was put before you, and you were not allowed to take it away?—It was just put before me.

1174. Are you certain of that?—Positive; I am able to swear it.

1175. Mr. Walter James.] Did you hear the other workmen talking about signing this book?—Plenty. Others signed at the same time as me.

1176. Mr. Fenwick.] Were you aware that there was any printed matter in the book?—No, I did not know at all. I did not know whether there was printed matter in it, or whether it was merely a book for signature on my joining the department.

1177. You did not see any printed matter in the book?—No, I did not.

[The Witness withdrew.]

MR. JOHN HOWELL BALL, called in ; and Examined.

1178. (*Chairman.*) ARE you in the employment of the Government at Woolwich?—No, I am employed by Messrs. Maple & Co.

1179. Were you in the employment of the Government?—Yes, at the time that entry was written in the book.

1180. What were you at the time?—I was a writer in Mr. Fullom's office; the chief clerk of the Carriage Department.

1181. When did you enter the Service?—In 1864.

1182. And when did you leave?—In 1866.

1183. You see the small manuscript writing at the side, on page 8 of that book. Did you write that?—Yes.

1184. Can you tell me when?—No, I could not, at least not exactly, but between the latter end of 1864 and 1866.

1185. Can you tell us the circumstances under which you wrote it?—No, I cannot recall it at all. It was most probable on some instructions given to me by Mr. Fullom at the time.

1186. At all events you can fix the date as being between 1864 and 1866?—Yes, it might have been then, because I was only there between those dates.

1187. Then on page 14, against rule 38, there is a manuscript note. The entry there is in a different hand; can you tell me who wrote that?—No, but it is not Mr. Fullom's writing.

1188. That would be written after the one you had written, I presume?—Undoubtedly.

1189. Mr. Talbot.] Why do you say so?—By its immediately succeeding my writing. It would be rather difficult for me to crowd it in.

1190. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything about the information of the workmen at that time?—I left there in 1866, and have had no connection with it since.

1191. But between 1864 and 1866 was it a matter that came to your knowledge as to whether the workmen were acquainted with the question of superannuation or were not?—I generally understand that they were entitled to pensions.

1192. But you wrote a note to say they were not?—Did I! I could not tell you what I wrote now. I know a great many of them were entitled to pensions.

1193. Mr. Walter James.] You are employed by Maple & Co.?—Yes.

1194. Then what brought you here?—Merely to identify my handwriting. I have not come to support the movement that is being made.

1195. *Chairman.*] I am requested to ask you how old you were in 1864?—About 20 years of age.

1196. Mr. Gathorne-Hardy.] You say you only come here to identify your hand-writing in that book?—That is all.

1197. But who brought you here?—A letter was written to me to Maple & Co.; I have been in Italy the last month, and only arrived home within the last two or three days, and on my arrival a letter was there, saying that somebody wanted to see me at Woolwich with reference to some agitation which was going on with regard to pensions.

1198. Who wanted to see you?—A man named Burrell. He is employed there as a writer at present.

1199. The reason I ask is this: The importance attached to this particular handwriting did not clearly appear till just now, and I should like to know why you were summoned here. Were you told what evidence you would be asked to give?—No, I was merely asked to come and identify my hand-writing if I had no objection, and I had none if it would further the interests of anybody.

1200. That is all you were asked to come for?—That is all.

1201. *Chairman.*]

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1201. *Chairman.*] Were you asked to come here on behalf of the War Office?—Not at all; I was asked by Mr. Burrell. I should imagine he would be interested in this matter the same as the other men that have been giving evidence.

1202. Just look at Piper's book. *That* manuscript entry (*pointing in the book*) is said to be in Mr. Fullom's handwriting?—It is not Mr. Fullom's writing. He wrote a very straggling-hand, and the characters were rather thick, very strongly defined; I do not think it is possible Mr. Fullom could write as finely as that.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Tuesday, 18th June 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart.
Mr. Alfred Gathorne-Hardy.
Mr. Walter James.
Colonel Nolan.

Mr. John Talbot.
Mr. Fenwick.
Mr. Wiggin.

SIR JOSEPH BAILEY, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

MR. FRANCIS MOWATT, C.B. ; Examined.

1203. *Chairman.*] WHAT office do you hold?— Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

1204. You have had charge of this pension question for some time in the Treasury, have you not?— Yes.

1205. *Mr. Talbot.*] Have you to deal with these pensions, or with pensions generally?—Both with these pensions and with pensions generally.

1206. *Chairman.*] You wish to call the attention of the Committee to the various Acts of Parliament bearing upon the subject of pensions?—Yes.

1207. Will you kindly do so as shortly as you can?—The first Act that I will refer to is the Superannuation Act of 1859, the 22nd Vict. c. 26. In the 2nd Section of that Act are defined first of all what classes of persons shall come within the operation of the Act, namely, those “who shall have served in an established capacity in the permanent Civil Service of the State whether their remuneration be computed by day pay, weekly wages or annual salary, and for whom provision shall not otherwise have been made by Act of Parliament, or who may not be specially excepted by the authority of Parliament;” and the concluding part of the section contains a provision that: “If any question should arise in any Department of the public service as to the claim of any person or class of persons for superannuation under this clause, it shall be referred to the Commissioners of the Treasury whose decision shall be final.” When that Act had passed the Treasury laid down in a Minute the conditions which they would consider constituted permanent Civil Service of the State under the discretion vested in them in the latter portion of that section. That Minute I have with me.

1208. *Colonel Nolan.*] Was this Minute published to the workmen, and have you proof that it was published to the workmen?—I have no information on that point

1209. *Chairman.*] What is the date of that Minute?—The 6th of December 1866. It has been laid before Parliament.

1210. *Colonel Nolan.*] Have you a printed copy of it?—No.

1211. You cannot produce a printed copy?—No; but it has been laid before Parliament.

1212. Are you aware that last year a copy of a Minute exactly like that for 25,000 *l.* was laid before Parliament, and for five months not a single Member of the House had seen it?—I am not aware of that. The Minute says: “The 2nd Section of the Act contemplates the extension of the same benefits as are given to Civil servants paid by annual salary, to workmen on day pay or weekly wages, provided they shall have served ‘in an established capacity in the permanent Civil Service of the State,’ but not otherwise, and leaves it to the Treasury to decide what persons or class of persons come within this description.” The next part of the Minute which has any bearing upon the question before the

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[Continued.]

Committee is this: My Lords proceed to consider what classes of public servants admitted by certificate, and in receipt of day pay or weekly wages, can be fairly considered to come within the denomination of being engaged in the permanent Civil Service of the State in an established capacity. The true test of this appears to be a permanence of service, which, while leaving untouched the power of dismissal for misconduct, establishes at the same time such a mutual relation between the employer and employed, that a portion of the full market value of the labour in the form of weekly wages is foregone for the sake of steady employment and the prospect of being provided for in old age. When a labourer receives the full market rate of wages on employment of a fluctuating or temporary nature, there can be no reason why the State should make him a present, over and above, of a retiring pension which he would not obtain from any other employer. On the other hand, when the employment is of a permanent character, it is often for the mutual advantage of the State and its workmen, that they should receive the fair price of their labour, partly in the form of present wages and partly in that of provision for the future, to accrue in case of retirement caused by ill-health or old age, after a certain number of years' service shall have established a permanent connection." There is one other sentence which perhaps may be said to bear upon this question:—"Subject to these conditions my Lords are prepared to extend the full benefit of the Act as regards superannuation to the different classes of men on day pay or weekly wages who are considered by the Lords, &c., of the Admiralty" (it was issued to the Admiralty in the first instance and then forwarded to the War Department subsequently) "to be on their permanent establishment as fully as to those who are recognised as established clerks upon annual salary."

1213. Colonel *Nolan*.] You say that that has never been printed?—I do not say that.

1214. You do not know whether it is printed or not?—No.

1215. But you have no proof to bring forward that it ever has been printed?—No proof, except such proof as that it is laid before Parliament.

1216. Are you aware that last year a Paper was laid upon the table of the House of Commons by the Treasury providing for a sum of 25,000 *l.*, and that not a single Member of Parliament knew of it?—No.

1217. It was the case of Major Watkins to identify the case and bring it to your mind?—I was not aware of it.

1218. *Chairman*.] You simply produce this as a Minute made at the time?—Yes. I think I ought to call your attention for what it is worth to this note at the end of the Minute, "Also let a copy be submitted to Parliament." Whether it was printed by Parliament I do not know at all.

1219. Colonel *Nolan*.] Have you even proof that it was laid upon the table of the House of Commons?—No proof but that.

1220. You have merely proof that there was an order given that it should be laid upon the table?—Yes.

1221. Are you aware that a Paper of that particular kind was laid by the Treasury on the table of the House of Commons, and there remained not printed, and that such evidence was given by Mr. Jackson?—No, I am not aware of that.

1222. *Chairman*.] Is there anything else in this Act that you wish to call our attention to?—The third section provides that "Nothing herein contained shall interfere with the grant, to the officers and clerks who entered the public service prior to the fifth day of August one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine of such Superannuation Allowances as might hereafter have been granted to them under Section nine of the said Act of the fourth and fifth years of King William the Fourth, or shall prevent, restrict, or diminish any other superannuation allowance, pension, gratuity, or compensation which, if this Act had not been passed, might hereafter have been granted to any person who shall have entered the public service before the passing of this Act."

1223. That does not affect this question at all. None of these people in whom we are interested come under that description. We are only concerned with people who entered after the year 1861?—If the scope of the Committee's inquiry does not include the claim of any officer who was appointed before the year 1859, I need not trouble you with that section. The next Act is the Act of 1873, the Act

of 36 Vict. c. 23, which recites, "Whereas by the Superannuation Act, 1859, it is enacted that for the purposes of that Act no person thereafter to be appointed shall be deemed to have served in the permanent Civil Service of the State unless such person holds his appointment directly from the Crown, or has been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners. And whereas it appears that in several public departments of the State persons have been appointed since the passing of the said Act to establish situations in the Civil Service not held directly from the Crown, but that through inadvertence on the part of the heads of such departments without any default on the part of the persons so appointed, no steps were taken before their appointment to procure for them certificates from the Civil Service Commissioners. And whereas it is unjust that the persons so appointed should be deprived of the superannuation allowances or gratuities which they were led to expect at the time when they entered the Civil Service: Be it enacted that the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may, if they think fit, at any time before the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, with the concurrence of the Civil Service Commissioners, and on application being made to them for that purpose by the head or heads of any public department of the State, declare by order or warrant that any person who has been appointed to a permanent situation in such department without a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners after the passing of the said Superannuation Act, 1859, and before the fourth day of June one thousand eight hundred and seventy, was so appointed through inadvertence on the part of the head or heads of such department, and without any default on the part of the person so appointed, and every person with respect to whom such order or warrant may be issued shall be in the same position as regards his claim to a superannuation allowance or gratuity, under the said Superannuation Act, 1859, as he would have been in if he had been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners." Finally, as regards persons who were not appointed to permanent situations in any department, and who would not have become entitled to pension, even if they had been admitted with a Civil Service certificate, provision was made in an Act of 1887, 50 & 51 Vict. c. 67, of which the 4th Section provides that "if a person employed in any public department in a capacity in respect of which a superannuation allowance cannot be granted under the Superannuation Act, 1859, retires, or is removed from his employment and—

'(a) The employment is one to which he was required to devote his whole time, and

'(b) The remuneration for the employment was paid entirely out of moneys provided by Parliament, and

'(c) He has served in the employment for not less than seven years, if he is removed in consequence of the abolition of his employment, or for the purpose of facilitating improvements in the organisation of the department by which economy can be effected, or for not less than fifteen years if his retirement is caused from infirmity of mind or body, permanently incapacitating him from the duties of his employment,'

"the Treasury may, if they think fit, grant to him a compassionate gratuity not exceeding one pound or one week's pay, whichever is the greater, for each year of his service in his employment."

1224. You call our attention to the Act, and to the fact that the Treasury has the power of granting small gratuities to persons who do not come within the category of those to whom a Civil Service certificate would be granted?—It is rather a technical distinction, but that is not quite it. The grant of a Civil Service certificate is not in question; the Treasury have the power of granting gratuities to persons who do not serve in an established capacity in the permanent Civil Service of the State.

1225. Do you consider that that applies to workmen at Woolwich?—I do.

1226. Is there a limitation to the persons who leave after the passing of the Act?—Yes.

1227. All that you wish to do, as I understand, is to put before us these Acts in regular order?—If the Committee limits me to evidence, yes.

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[Continued.]

1228. Do you wish to tell us the view of the Treasury upon them?—I will do so if the Committee wish to hear it.

1229. Anything that the Treasury wish you to state to the Committee on the matter we will hear?—The only point upon which I could be of any use to the Committee, outside the mere facts of the case, is the exercise of the Treasury and discretion under that second section which I first read to you, which says that: "If any question should arise in any department of the public service as to the claim of any person or class of persons for superannuation under this clause, it shall be referred to the Commissioners of the Treasury, whose decision shall be final." I could tell the Committee the principles upon which the Treasury consider that those words exclude legally (I do not say in equity for the moment) these persons on the reading which the Treasury has always held.

1230. Colonel *Nolan*.] You have expressly said "legally," but you do not say "in equity"; those are your words?—Those are my words, because I understand that I am restricted from arguing the question.

1231. Your argument is entirely a legal one, and you do not go into the question of equity, as you have expressly stated?—No; pardon me. I say that being unwilling to take up the time of the Committee, and being restricted, as I understand strictly to the legal effect of these sections, and the view of the Treasury as to how they affect the legal position of these men, I am prepared to tell the Committee to what extent the Treasury think that they do legally affect their position.

1232. I think you also used the word "equity"?—Quite so. I said that I would not say a word about equity, because I understood that I was debarred from that for the moment.

1233. *Chairman*.] We do not wish to debar you from saying anything that you wish to say on behalf of the Treasury. I understand that you wish to tell us what the Treasury wishes us to know on this matter that has not already been put before us by the War Office?—The particular question as regards these men has never been officially before the Treasury since this claim arose in 1870. What passed in 1860 and 1861, after the Superannuation Act was passed, and when it was being applied generally throughout the service, did come before the Treasury officially. For instance, these circulars came before the Treasury officially. When the minute, of which I have read parts to you, was sent to the War Office, the War Office replied that the Secretary of State acquiesced in the principles laid down in that minute, and recognised that the Act is precise as requiring appointments to be permanent. Accordingly, on the 7th of November 1860, the War Office submitted for the Treasury's approval a draft circular which it was proposed to issue, not for the information of the labourers or workmen, but for the guidance of the officers at the out-stations, in employing the workmen. In the circular those officers were requested to furnish lists of any persons whom they might consider eligible for pensions within the limitations of the minute; but the officers to whom the circulars were addressed did not, as a matter of fact, ever consider any man as coming within the limitations of the minute.

1234. Colonel *Nolan*.] What proof have you of that?—They never sent any list in.

1235. They simply omitted to send you a list, and you found your inference on that?—They did not send in a list, and the men were not eligible for pension. In the interval between the passing of the Act and the issue of these circulars it had been intended that all artificers should be appointed upon terms which would entitle them to the benefits of the Act. A scheme of examination had been prepared, and the Secretary of State had determined that men who had joined since 1859 should be submitted for examination as soon as the arrangements were completed. I mention this fact to show you how we apply that Act of 1873. As regards these men, *i.e.* men employed between 1859 and 1861, the Secretary of State considered it desirable to give a character of permanence to their employment (that is a quotation from this letter), and he made a special request that the cases of men engaged between the date of the passing of the Act of 1859, and that on which the new regulation might be promulgated to the officers at the outposts who had the engaging and employment of these men,

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[*Continued.*]

should be reserved for future consideration, as distinguished from men employed subsequently.

1236. *Mr. Wiggin.*] You spoke of 1859; to what date are you referring after 1859?—In 1860 and 1861 this correspondence took place. When, therefore, the Act of 1873 was passed, the Treasury considered that these men fairly come within its intention. I am speaking of those men who were appointed between the year 1859 and the promulgation of the regulations. Their employment was permanent, and they had a well-founded expectation of superannuation on retirement, because in the War Office letter, to which I have referred, it was said that the men were to be examined; moreover, the fact of their not having a Civil Service certificate was directly caused not by their own default, but by the inadvertence of the heads of that department in not having prepared a scheme of examination by which the men could be examined and become qualified. At the end of that time that Minute which I have read to you was acknowledged by the Secretary of State, who said that he acquiesced in its principles, and recognised that there should be permanence in order to qualify for pension; and therefore the Treasury would hold that from that date there could be no inadvertence on the part of the War Office in not submitting the men for examination which would qualify them for a pension, supposing that they served in an established capacity in the permanent Civil Service of the State.

1237. *Chairman.*] That is upon the question of inadvertence; that we have had already; is there any other question upon which you would wish to speak to us?—No, I think not.

1238. *Colonel Nolan.*] Then the view of the Treasury is that the men employed in the departments should not suffer through the inadvertence of the heads of departments?—Through the particular inadvertence mentioned in the Act.

1239. But you would not extend that to general inadvertence?—No.

1240. Might not the principle be extended, and if any inadvertence on the part of the heads of departments ought not to cause suffering to the men, why should we restrict that principle to the one particular kind of inadvertence which you bring forward?—For the reasons stated in the Act.

1241. *Chairman.*] We have read the Act, and I think we understand your point upon that; is there any other matter that you wish to place before us on behalf of the Treasury?—No, I think not.

1242. Do you read the proviso at the end of that section as coming into force when the claim is made 10 years previously as to who can make the claim?—I do not think that I quite appreciate the distinction.

1243. The words are "Provided always, that if any question should arise in any department of the public service as to the claim of any person, or class of persons, for superannuation under this clause, it shall be referred to the Commissioners of the Treasury." Do you read that as coming into force when the claim is made, or when the person is engaged on whose behalf the claim may be made?—I should say that the claim would be retrospective. A man might make his application at any time, but the claim would arise when he was first employed. Then when the question as to that claim arises and is referred to the Treasury, the Treasury would decide; but the claim might arise many years before. A claim could arise after one year, because in Section 6 there is power to grant gratuities in case of short service, but the particular claim now in question would arise under this section.

1244. In the case of a man who enters in the year 1861 or 1862 he can have no claim to pension until he has served 10 years, can the Treasury settle his case in the year 1861 when no claim could possibly come in from that man until the year 1871; is it possible for the Treasury to settle a claim before the claim has accrued?—The question would arise as to the claim of a class of persons.

1245. Does the power of the Treasury arise when the class of persons are engaged, or 10 years afterwards, when they make their claim?—The Treasury would hold that it arose when the class was constituted.

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A P P E N D I X.

Appendix, No. 1.

PAPER handed in by Sir *A. L. Haliburton*, K.C.B.

STATEMENT as to the CLAIM to SUPERANNUATION made by WORKMEN who joined the ROYAL FACTORIES after 17th December 1861.

1. THERE is a marked distinction between the claims of men who joined the Royal Factories prior to 17th December 1861, and of those who joined subsequently to that date.

2. The Superannuation Act of 1859, Section 17, enacted, "No person hereafter to be appointed shall be deemed to have served in the permanent Civil Service of the State, unless such person has been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners."

3. The Act did not indicate what examination was necessary for workmen seeking to obtain the certificate of the Civil Service Commissioners, and the regulation prescribing the examination was not issued until 29th August 1861, *i.e.*, more than two years after the passing of the Superannuation Act.

4. Up to 29th August 1861, therefore, it was not possible for the men to qualify themselves for superannuation by obtaining a Civil Service certificate, not from any default on their part, but owing to official delay in affording the necessary facilities for the purpose.

5. With the instructions for the examination there was issued a regulation that "No persons are entitled to superannuation who are in receipt of the full market rate of wages."

6. This decision was made by the Treasury under the last part of Section 2 of the Act of 1859, wherein it is provided that such decision shall be final.

7. The question was then raised, not by the Manufacturing Departments, but by the Military Store Department, "What constitutes full market rate of wages?" It was found that no general standard could be laid down, that wages varied in different trades, and in different localities, and it was finally decided and announced in Circular 729, of 17th December 1861, "That the rate of wages paid at a station, at which men are found willing to engage themselves for employment, must be taken to be the 'full market rate,' it being optional with the men to accept or refuse such wages."

8. The position of men entering the Service between the passing of the Act of 1859 and the issue of the regulations of 1861, was, therefore, as follows:—

9. There was nothing to preclude them from obtaining the qualifying certificate of the Civil Service Commissioners, except the absence of the necessary regulations as to the method of obtaining it. Had the Act defined the nature of the qualifying examination, or had the necessary regulations been issued concurrently with the Act, all persons joining after April 1859, and up to the date of the Treasury regulations, might have obtained the qualifying certificate.

10. Prior to the issue of the Treasury regulations of August 1861, excluding from superannuation men in receipt of full market rates of wages, returns had been called for of all men who would probably become entitled under the Act. The returns sent in by the Manufacturing Departments practically included the whole of the men then employed. About the same time one of the Superintendents, in a speech addressed to a

large body of workmen, had informed them that they would on retirement become entitled to superannuation.

11. It was therefore felt that these men, by the action of the heads of their departments, were "led to expect," and entered the Service with a reasonable hope that they would become entitled to superannuation.

12. The circular of December 1861, was therefore issued, stating that, "Should there however be any men at your station engaged since the passing of the Act (19th April 1859) who have really entered the department on a clear understanding, or with a well-grounded expectation that they would, if they conducted themselves well, and remained in the employment of the department, receive future superannuation; Sir George C. Lewis will (on receiving the full particulars of each case) consider whether such cases should be transmitted for the special consideration and decision of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury."

13. It is clear that this promise applied only to men who had already entered the Service, who, owing to no fault of their own, had failed to obtain the Civil Service certificate, and who, for the reason stated, had, as a class, been excluded from the benefits of the Superannuation Act.

14. The position of men entering the Service after December 1861 was totally different.

15. Before they entered the Service the Treasury decision, under Section 2 of the Act of 1859, had been promulgated, excluding from superannuation all workmen in receipt of full market rates of wages. They had not, therefore, at any period of their service, a right to expect superannuation, nor a right to qualify for it by obtaining a Civil Service certificate.

16. If the heads of the Manufacturing Departments had, as directed in the circular of 17th December 1861, sent in the names of men who entered the Service between April 1859 and December 1861, who considered that they had a just claim to superannuation, and were prepared to undergo the Civil Service Examination, we should probably never have heard of the claims of men entering after 1861. Those entering prior to December 1861 would have been examined in the early part of 1862, as was the case in the other Army departments, and those entering after 1861, if they were ignorant of the regulations, would, on claiming to be examined, have been told that they were not entitled to obtain the Civil Service certificate. In the other departments under the War Office the circular was correctly interpreted and acted upon, but in the Manufacturing Departments it was misunderstood. The Superintendents thought that the claims to superannuation were not to be sent in until the men were about to be discharged, after sufficient service to entitle them to superannuation.

17. Nothing more was heard of the question as regards the Royal Factories until 1870. In that year George Weaver, one of the 1859-61 workmen, claimed superannuation, and it was then found that, as he was not in possession of the Civil Service certificate required by the Act of 1859, the Treasury had no legal power to grant him superannuation, and that it would be necessary to obtain an Act to give the Treasury power to deal with such cases.

18. This led to the Superannuation Act Amendment Act of 1873. This Act did not purport to give superannuation to persons not previously entitled to qualify for it, but merely to secure it to certain persons, who, without any default on their part, and through inadvertence on the part of the heads of their departments, had not been qualified for superannuation by obtaining the Civil Service certificate.

19. This Act, as far as the War Department was concerned, covered the claims of all those who entered its service between April 1859 and December 1861, and who, but for the inadvertence of the heads of the Manufacturing Departments, would have obtained the Civil Service certificate after the issue of the circular of December 1861, in the same way that workmen in the other departments of the Army obtained it.

20. With regard to the workmen who entered after 1861, there was no inadvertence on the part of the heads of the departments in not qualifying them for that which they were not entitled to be qualified for.

21. The men who entered prior to the issue of the Treasury Regulations were, in the words of the preamble of the 1873 Act, "led to expect" superannuation by the direct action of the heads of their departments, and on the issue of the circular of December 1861, were entitled to qualify for it. The men who entered after that date were never, by any action of the heads of their departments, "led to expect" superannuation, and were never entitled to qualify for it. In their case, therefore, as no question of inadvertence on the part of the heads of their departments in not qualifying them arises, they could not be brought under the Act of 1873, because it would be impossible to give them the declaration required by Section 1 of that Act.

22. It is difficult, after a lapse of 28 years, to prove what was known, and what was not known by men entering the factories between 1862 and 1870. The War Office

records

records show that the Circulars of 1861 were sent to all the Manufacturing Departments, and Superintendents of the Royal Laboratory and Royal Gun Factory, have stated that the regulations as to superannuation were well known in their departments, while proof still exists that in the Royal Carriage Department the men, employed after 1861, were informed that they were not entitled to superannuation.

23. In the memorials and letters of 1870, which led to the passing of the Act of 1873, the claims of the men entering up to December 1861 were largely based on the Circular of December 1861. The present claimants, entering after 1861, chiefly base their claim on their ignorance of that circular. It is difficult to understand how men could work side by side for many years, and yet be so differently informed as to the conditions affecting their interests.

24. The circular of December 1861, however, in no way related to, or concerned men entering after its date, and, therefore, even if the men of 1861-70 never heard of it, that fact would not give them a claim to superannuation.

25. Even if they never heard of the War Office circulars, we must assume that they knew of the Superannuation Act of 1859. That Act provides that, "No person hereafter shall be deemed to have served in the permanent Civil Service of the State unless such person has been admitted into the Civil Service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners."

26. When the men of 1859-61 entered, they could not obtain that certificate, because the examination question had not been settled. When the 1861-70 men entered, it had been settled, and if they had asked to be qualified by examination, they would, if they were ignorant of the fact, have been informed that, being in the receipt of full market rates of wages, they were not entitled to be qualified. There was, therefore, not only no inadvertence on the part of the heads of their departments in not seeing that men were qualified who were not entitled to be qualified, but there was "default" in the sense of the Act of 1873, on the part of the men in not seeking to qualify for superannuation, if they thought they were entitled to it.

27. If the present claimants could prove that they had suffered loss through ignorance on their part of the terms of the Superannuation Act of 1859, and that their ignorance of the law was due to the action of the War Department, it might be a ground for considering whether that loss was of a character and extent which would justify special legislation for their relief, but such loss, if proved, could not bring them under the Act of 1873, the conditions laid down by that Act being entirely wanting in their case.

28. The War Department is not aware that these men have, by their employment in the Royal Factories, forfeited any advantages which they would have possessed had they been employed in private establishments, nor that they have been in any way damnified by their service under the Government. They have not only been in the receipt of full market rates of wages, but have enjoyed certain advantages not common to the trade, such as sick pay, holidays with pay, and in the case of foremen, leave in addition, with full pay.

29. Though the particular claims before the Committee are those of men who entered the Service prior to the 4th June 1870, the claims made on the Government are not so limited. The Secretary of State for War has already received memorials from men entering the Royal Factories subsequent to that date, and the question is therefore one of much larger scope than appears in the present reference.

30. Practically the claim is not to rectify an inadvertence committed by the heads of Government departments, for no such inadvertence has occurred, but to set aside the Treasury Regulations issued under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act of 1859, and to give to these workmen superannuation in addition to full market rates of wages.

31. The Secretary of State is unable to admit that those who entered the Royal Factories between 1861 and 1870 have any claim to be taken out of the category of men whose claims are dealt with under the Superannuation Act of 1887, nor that they have, on account of any act of the Government, established a claim to be treated differently from the great body of their fellow workmen in the Royal Factories.

The number of men concerned in the Royal Factories alone, excluding the other departments that will be affected by the decision arrived at, is 925, and the capitalised value of the superannuation claimed amounts to 297,577 £.

War Office,
May 1889.

Appendix, No. 2.

PAPER handed in by Sir A. L. Haliburton, K.C.B.

MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENTS.

[Actuaries' Report, No. 409.]

Claims of Workmen to Superannuation.

Question by Sir A. Haliburton:

Required the probable charge for the Superannuation of Workmen who joined between the 17th December 1861 and the 4th June 1870, if their claim to come under the Superannuation Act be conceded?

R E P O R T.

1. From the papers given to us, it appears that the number of men who could claim under the circumstances stated in the question, are as follows:—

D E P A R T M E N T.	Men still serving.		Men who have been Reduced, or Discharged on account of Ill-health, after 10 or more Years' Service.	
	Number.	Weekly Wage.	Number.	Weekly Wage.
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Royal Carriage Department - - -	106	318 4 -	42	65 - -
Royal Laboratory - - - - -	261	382 10 6	21	25 9 6
Royal Gun Factory - - - - -	107	186 13 3	40	50 14 4
Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield - -	116	189 16 7	1	1 16 2
Royal Small Arms Factory, Birmingham -	8	15 18 -	2	3 8 10
Royal Gunpowder Factory - - -	23	42 - -	1	1 16 -
Assistants to Director of Artillery - -	6	14 15 -	—	—
Inspection of Guns and Steel - - -	6	14 19 9	—	—
Inspection of Small Arms - - -	26	61 15 3	—	—
Inspection of Laboratory Stores - - -	5	7 18 6	—	—
Royal Army Clothing Depot - - -	55	88 17 -	26	29 17 -
Building Works Department - - -	9	12 5 6	4	5 6 6
	788	1,385 13 4	137	183 8 4

2. As instructed, we have assumed that the men entered at the average age of 25 years, and that they would retire at the average age of 58, on $\frac{3}{8}$ of their present salary, subject to a loss of $\frac{1}{10}$ for every year's or part of a year's break in their past service. We have used Farr's English Life Table, and have allowed for invaliding during the years that will elapse before the men of 1861 complete their 33 years' service.

3. The

3. The charge on the Army Estimates, including past payments for men already discharged, would, we calculate, be as follows:—

YEAR	Men now Serving.	Men already Discharged.	YEAR	Men now Serving.	Men already Discharged.
	£.	£.		£.	£.
1873-74	-	13	1909-10	18,798	598
1874-75	-	13	1910-11	17,624	564
1875-76	-	13	1911-12	16,439	530
1876-77	-	18	1912-13	15,245	494
1877-78	-	33	1913-14	14,054	460
1878-79	-	41	1914-15	12,871	424
1879-80	-	308	1915-16	11,705	388
1880-81	-	336	1916-17	10,565	353
1881-82	-	406	1917-18	9,458	319
1882-83	-	494	1918-19	8,398	286
1883-84	-	660	1919-20	7,391	254
1884-85	-	845	1920-21	6,437	223
1885-86	-	955	1921-22	5,560	194
1886-87	-	1,009	1922-23	4,732	168
1887-88	-	1,061	1923-24	3,902	143
1888-89	-	1,130	1924-25	3,324	121
1889-90	81	1,136	1925-26	2,733	100
1890-91	205	1,114	1926-27	2,219	83
1891-92	345	1,094	1927-28	1,773	67
1892-93	502	1,074	1928-29	1,399	53
1893-94	680	1,050	1929-30	1,063	42
1894-95	3,141	1,028	1930-31	828	33
1895-96	5,810	1,005	1931-32	623	25
1896-97	7,935	980	1932-33	457	19
1897-98	10,976	955	1933-34	331	14
1898-99	13,155	929	1934-35	236	10
1899-1900	22,167	902	1935-36	163	7
1900-1	26,084	875	1936-37	111	5
1901-2	26,612	847	1937-38	75	3
1902-3	26,116	819	1938-39	49	2
1903-4	25,410	791	1939-40	30	1
1904-5	24,870	760	1940-41	18	1
1905-6	23,305	730	1941-42	12	—
1906-7	22,221	698	1942-43	7	—
1907-8	21,104	667	1943-44	3	—
1908-9	19,957	632	1944-45	2	—

4. The total amount represented in 1889 by the foregoing sums, with future payments discounted at 3 per cent., and past payments brought forward, but not accumulated at compound interest, would be 297,577 l.

Denham Robinson.
J. G. Ashley.

17 May 1889.

Appendix, No. 3.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Edmonds*.

RATES of PAY in ROYAL GUN FACTORY.

	Rate per Hour.	Rate per Week of 56 Hours.	Number in 1860.	Number in 1870.	Rate per Hour.	Rate per Week of 54 Hours.	Number in 1880.
	<i>d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>			<i>d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Artificers and Ma- chinists - - -	6½	39 8	7	1	8½	40 -	22
	8	37 4	49	15	8½	37 6	15
	7½	35 -	334	125	8	36 -	341
	-	-	-	-	7½	33 6	37
	7	32 8	167	33	7½	32 -	20
	6½	30 4	74	57	6½	30 6	8
	-	-	-	-	6½	30 -	9
	6	28 -	79	29	6½	28 -	30
	5½	25 8	207	70	5½	26 -	19
	5	23 4	41	21	5½	23 6	34
Labourers - - -	4½	21 -	60	52	4½	21 -	22
	-	-	-	-	5½	23 6	18
	-	-	-	-	4½	21 -	67
	4	18 8	-	78	4½	19 -	411
	3½	16 4	419	200	-	-	-
	3½	15 2	112	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

In November 1872 the hours of the department were changed from 56 per week to 54 per week, and the hourly rates of the men were changed from 7½ *d.* to 8 *d.* and from 3½ *d.* to 4 *d.*

In December 1878 the rate of the labourers was changed from 4 *d.* to 4½ *d.*

PIECE WORK.

			£.		
1865	-	Wages	-	94,790	
	-	Piece-work	-	72,255	76·2 per cent.
1870	-	Wages	-	78,175	
	-	Piece-work	-	61,532	78·1 per cent.
1888	-	Piece-work	-	-	72· per cent.

HOLIDAYS and SICK PAY.

In 1887-88:		£.	<i>s. d.</i>
Total Wages	-	192,188	4 5
Holidays	-	3,425	2 9
Sick Pay	-	2,089	4 -
Holidays	-	-	1·84 per cent.
Sick Pay	-	-	1·12 per cent.
Together	-	-	2·96 per cent.

I N D E X.

[*N.B.*—In this Index the Figures following the Names of the Witnesses, and those in the Analysis of Evidence of each Witness, refer to the Questions in the Evidence; the Figures following *App.* refer to the Pages in the Appendix; and the Numerals following *Rep.* to the Pages in the Report.]

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L.

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Statement by Colonel Milward in December 1870 that he could not trace the issue of any circular, but that all the circumstances were well known to the men in his department, *Oram* 628—Authority of the manager in 1870 (Mr. Davidson), for Colonel Milward's statement, that the change of regulations as to superannuation was known to the workmen, *ib.* 628-635. 666—Impression of witness that the men knew they were not entitled to superannuation, as it was a matter of general knowledge, *ib.* 644-655. 662—Admission as to the men having had no knowledge of the Circulars of 1861; *ib.* 659-664—Circumstance of the Circulars being duly recorded in one of the Laboratory books, *ib.* 673, 674.

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Lists of Men entitled to Superannuation. Statement as to the lists of men eligible for superannuation not having been sent in between 1861 and 1874, the Circular of August 1861 (requiring such lists to be delivered) having never been made known to the men at Woolwich and Enfield, *Hughes* 28-36—Provisions in the Act of 1873 and in Acts in 1876 and 1884 on the subject of lists being prepared of men entitled to superannuation, *ib.* 39. 51.

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Lock, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is a messenger in the Royal Carriage Department at Woolwich, having entered in October 1860; 386-388—He firmly believes that for about twelve months after 1862 he told some of the men who entered in the Department that they were not to expect superannuation; belief that very few were told, 389-402. 411, 412.

Explanation that witness is entitled to superannuation, and has no personal interest in the present inquiry, 401. 420-423—Circumstances under which witness was asked by Mr. Piper, of the Carriage Department, to give evidence before the Committee, 398-400. 413-419—Statement that he never saw any notice posted up that the men who entered after 1860 were not entitled to superannuation, 403-410.

M.

McCoy, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Explanation that witness, who is an engineer, entered the Arsenal in 1866, and subsequently signed a book of regulations without being aware that he was not to get superannuation; nor does he remember any conversation with his foreman (Mr. Shipman), before 1870, in which he (witness) discussed the question with Shipman, 1140-1177.

McGee, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is manager of the Small Arms Factory at Enfield, having first gone there in 1856; 919, 920.

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Masters, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness entered the Royal Gun Factory in 1860, and is now chief engineer in the hydraulic establishment of the Carriage Department, 1007-1010—He does not remember having signed any book of regulations on entering and was not aware he would not be entitled to superannuation; nor were the men generally aware, 1011-1021.

Memorials to War Office. Explanation in connection with the petition of the men in 1870 or 1871 in which they show that up to the issue of Colonel Campbell's notice in August 1870, they had never doubted their claim to superannuation, *Hughes* 94-101.

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Milward, Colonel (the late). Comment upon statement by Colonel Milward in December 1870 that all the circumstances were fully understood by all the men in the Arsenal; counter statement by Mr. Edmonds, who was in charge of the Gun Factories, *Hughes* 74-78, 139.

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Minute written by the late Colonel Milward on 14th December 1870 in the presence of witness in which he stated that "all the circumstances (as to the men of 1861-70 having no claim to superannuation) were and are fully understood by all persons employed in the Laboratory," *Oram* 628-638—Dissent from the suggestion that Colonel Milward in writing the Minute of December 1870 was actuated by War Office influences; he would have been only too glad to report in favour of the men, *ib.* 639-643, 667-670.

Mowatt, Francis, C.B. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Duty of witness, as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, to deal with the question of pensions, 1203-1205—Provisions of the Superannuation Act of 1859 as to the class of persons coming under the Act, and as to the decision of any claims to benefit from the Act resting with the Treasury, 1206, 1207, 1222—Treasury Minute of 6th December 1860 laying down the condition necessary in order to bring persons under the Act; this Minute was laid before Parliament but witness is not aware that it was ever printed, 1207-1221.

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N.

Number of Claimants. Total of about 150 men at Enfield interested in the present claim, there being some thirty or forty at Limlaco; aggregate of about 700; *Hughes* 102, 103, 131, 132.

O.

Oram, William E. S. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness has been principal clerk at the Royal Laboratory for thirty-three years, 627, 665, 666.

Minute written by the late Colonel Milward on 14th December 1870, in the presence of witness, in which he stated that "all the circumstances (as to the men of 1861-70 having no claim to superannuation) were and are fully understood by all persons employed in the Laboratory," 628-638—Statement by Colonel Milward that he could not trace the issue of any circular, 628—Authority of the manager in 1870 (Mr. Davidson) for Colonel Milward's statement that the change of regulations, as to superannuation was known to the workmen, 628-635, 666.

Dissent from the suggestion that Colonel Milward in writing the Minute of December 1870 was actuated by War Office influences; he would have been only too glad to report in favour of the men, 639-643, 667-670—Impression of witness that the men knew they were not entitled to superannuation, as it was a matter of general knowledge, 644-655, 662.

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P.

Parliamentary Inquiry. Representation of the case of the men by witness to Mr. Boord in 1876, who brought the matter forward in the House, as did Baron de Worms and others subsequently, but without effect, *Hughes* 58, 82, 83—Explanation respecting the delay since the men took up the matter in 1870, before the institution of the present inquiry, *ib.* 80-83.

Pensions. Information respecting the old Ordnance superannuation scale in force at the Arsenal previously to the Superannuation Acts of 1857 and 1859; *Hughes* 2.

Explanation that the Arsenal workmen were never entitled to superannuation under Act of Parliament until the Act of 1859, but only to pensions under Ordnance Regulations, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 140-148, 300-305, 311.

Reference by the Committee to the system of pensions as distinct from superannuation, previously to the Act of 1859; *App.* iv.

See also *Acts of Parliament.* *Superannuation, &c.*

Piece Work. See *Wages, &c.*

Piper, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Service of witness in the Arsenal since 1850; he is now principal clerk in the Carriage Department, 675-678.

Examination respecting certain entries in a book of "Rules and Regulations of the Carriage Department" for 1862; belief that an entry in manuscript that all the men "are to be informed that they have no claim to superannuation" was written by the former principal clerk, who died in 1868; 679-696, 700, 701.

Explanation as to witness having, on joining the Carriage Department in 1872, inserted in the Book of Regulations the Circular of December 1861 as to the men not being entitled to superannuation, 779-789.

R.

Ronald, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness, who is a writer at the Royal Gun Factory, explains the circumstances under which he drafted a letter in July 1870 for a workman named George Weaver, applying for superannuation; doubt whether Weaver was previously aware of the Circulars of 1861, till witness told him of them, 596-617.

Rules and Regulations. Reference to the printed regulations for the workmen in 1862 as not containing a word about the requirement of a certificate, nor about any alteration in superannuation, which had existed for many years, *Hughes* 2—Reference to the books of the Rules and Regulations as showing that in March 1862 nothing was mentioned about superannuation as being abolished, this being stated for the first time in the book of 1872; *ib.* 105.

Belief that the men generally knew of the regulations in question, though these were not promulgated save in the Carriage Department, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 288. 291. 295-297. 323.

Statement as to the book of Mr. Travis (foreman) not having any entry respecting superannuation, *Shipman* 741-745—Examination as to witness having signed the regulations book of Travis, the foreman of his Department in 1869, there having been no intimation at the time that he was not to get superannuation; belief that it was not the custom for the men generally to sign a book when they first joined, *Ward* 971-1005.

Witness does not remember having signed any book of Regulations on entering, and was not aware he would not be entitled to superannuation; nor were the men generally aware, *Masters* 1011-1021.

Circumstance of the book received by witness, as foreman, in 1869 from his predecessor having nothing in it about superannuation; belief that the men who signed it were not aware that superannuation was discontinued, *Travis* 1027-1044.

Witness, who is now foreman in the Royal Carriage Department, entered in the Gun Factories in 1861; on entry he signed a book of names and addresses, but does not remember having signed any book of Regulations, *Chamberlain* 1047-1062.

Explanation that witness, who is a turner, entered in the Arsenal in 1866 and signed a book in the office; but was not aware he was not entitled to superannuation; he entered at less than the market rate of wages, *Turnbull* 1084-1106—Circumstance of witness having signed his foreman's book about two or three years after entering the service, but without being aware of the regulation inserted therein as to his not getting superannuation, *ib.* 1107-1121.

Regret expressed by the Committee that it was not made known to the men in the most public manner that those engaged after a certain date should neither be permitted to submit themselves to examination nor be entitled to superannuation, *Rep.* xi.

See also *Carriage Department.* *Circulars* of 1861.

S.

Shipman, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness, who is now chief examiner of carriages, was foreman in 1866; he produces the book of the Regulations of 1862; 703-706.

Examination to the effect that, to the best of witness' belief, a manuscript entry in this book as to the men not being entitled to superannuation was made in the year 1866; the book went out of his possession in 1875, and he has no idea by whom this entry was made, 707-777—Cognisance of the men as to the foregoing entry, before they signed the book, 712-714. 720-726. 763-768—Distinct recollection as to a man named McCoy having signed the book; frequent regret expressed by him to witness as to his having no claim to a pension, 715-718. 728-730. 763, 764.

Statement as to the book of Mr. Travis (foreman) not having the entry respecting superannuation, 741-745.

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Strikes. Long-continued freedom from strikes at the Arsenal, the advantage being largely due to the system of superannuation, *Hughes* 110-117—Large proportion of the leading hands still entitled to superannuation, their influence being considerable in preventing strikes, *ib.* 135-138.

Strikes—continued.

Limited extent to which exemption from strikes at Woolwich can be attributable to the expectancy of superannuation; very small proportion entitled to superannuation out of the total number of employes, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 373-382—Very limited extent to which there have been strikes at the Gun Factory, *Edmonds* 861-868.

SUPERANNUATION OR COMPENSATION :

Written statement by witness, read to the Committee, containing a summary of the grounds upon which superannuation is claimed on behalf of different classes of workmen, entered in Woolwich Arsenal between 17th December 1861 and 4th June 1870; examination thereon in detail, *Hughes 1 et seq.*—Documentary evidence submitted in support of the claims of the men, as advocated by witness, *ib.* 67.

Main point of witness' argument that the line should not have been drawn at the 17th December 1861, and that the 790 men admitted to superannuation up to that date were no more entitled to it than the 524 men now in the Arsenal who entered between 1861 and 1870; *Hughes* 83-85. 106-109—Absence of any claim on the part of the Arsenal artificers and labourers entered since 1870; *ib.* 86-89. 136-138.

Admission on the part of the War Office as to the claim to superannuation in the case of workmen entered in Woolwich Arsenal between 1859 and 17th December 1861, who, through inadvertence in the heads of departments, had joined without Civil Service certificates, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 21-23. 25—Summary of the circumstances under which the benefits of superannuation have been withheld from the men who entered between 17th December 1861 and 4th June 1870; denial that the claim of the men is in any way due to the inadvertence in connection with the Circular of 1861; 179-209.

Generous action of the Government in 1861 in granting superannuation as a boon to the men who joined after April 1859; entirely different position of the men who entered after 1861; *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 181, 182—There never was any intention to qualify men entering after December 1861; nor do any claims on their part come within the terms or intentions of the Act of 1873; *ib.* 182-184—Inference to be drawn from the fact that some thousands of men entered at the Arsenal in 1861-70 without any inquiry whether superannuation was included in the terms of their engagement, *ib.* 202.

Argument that even if the men were entirely ignorant of the regulations as to Civil Service certificates they did not suffer any such loss in consequence as to require legislative remedy, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 209. 241 *et seq.*; 283-297. 330, 331. 334—Estimated total of 300,000 *l.* as the capitalised value of the superannuation now applied for, *ib.* 298, 299.

Examination to the effect that if the Treasury Minute and the Circulars of 1861 were not known to the men who entered in 1861-70 there is no distinction, apart from the question of law, between their case and that of the men of 1859-61; opinion, however, that the concession in the latter case was a mistake, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 311-322—Conclusion as to the expectancy of superannuation having been founded on the general practice in Government Departments, this not being the practice of private firms, *ib.* 348-350—Claim of the men who entered in 1859-61 on the ground that those who had previously entered received superannuation and that it was promised under the Circulars of 1861; *ib.* 351-355.

Report by actuaries as to the probable charge for the superannuation of workmen who joined between 17th December 1861 and 4th June 1870, if their claim to come under the Superannuation Act be conceded; capitalised value of 297,577 *l.*; *App.* 102, 103.

Considerable difficulty of the investigation by the Committee by reason of the lapse of time (nearly thirty years ago) since some of the events in question occurred, *Rep.* iii—Concession of the claims of the workmen up to 17th December 1861, they having received no intimation from their superiors that their condition as to pension was altered, *ib.* iv, v.

Opinion of the Committee that the workmen entered subsequently to the 17th December 1861 are not within the benefits of the Acts of 1873; *Rep.* x—Conclusion that it was clearly unjust to the men to make an alteration in the terms of their engagement without plainly informing them of the fact, and that the men are entitled to compensation, *ib.* xi.

View of the Committee that as regards the amount of compensation no distinction can properly be drawn between the men engaged in 1861-70 and those engaged between 1859 and 1861; *Rep.* xi.

See also *Acts of Parliament.* Carriage Department. Certificates. Circulars of
1861. Gun Factories. Laboratories. Pensions. Rules and Regulations.
Strikes. Treasury. Wages. Weaver, George.

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T.

Tatton, Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness entered Woolwich Arsenal in 1852, and is now assistant manager in the Royal Carriage Department, 941-944.

Varying rates of wages in the Department from 1860 to 1869; the rates were rather lower than in the private trade, 945-949—Large percentage of the men employed on piece work; increase of about one-fourth in the earnings in these cases, 950, 951—Better work turned out in the Department than in the trade, 952-957—Impression that the men who joined after 1859 did not expect superannuation, 958-965.

Taylor, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Statement to the effect that witness, who is a fitter in the Gun Factories, entered in 1862, and never knew till 1872 or 1873 that he was not to expect superannuation, 1063-1083.

Thompson, Sir Ralph. Explanation in letter to witness from Sir Ralph Thompson in January 1887 that the real reason why applications were not sent in was that it was considered premature until the men were about to be superannuated, *Hughes* 27, 28, 53, 54—Admission by Sir Ralph Thompson that the only question to be settled is whether the men were really aware of the Circular of December 1861; *ib.* 71.

Travis, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Entry of witness into the Arsenal in 1859; he has been foreman of erectors since 1869; 1022-1026—Circumstance of the book received by him in 1869 from his predecessor having nothing in it about superannuation; belief that the men who signed it were not aware that superannuation was discontinued, 1027-1044—Intimation first received by witness in 1872 that superannuation was withdrawn; he has no personal interest in the present inquiry, having entered in 1859; 1041-1046.

Treasury. Provision in the Act of 1859 as to the Treasury deciding any question under the Act respecting individual claims to superannuation, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 160, 180, 181—Treasury decision in August 1861 that no men receiving the full market rate of wages should get superannuation in addition; direction in December 1861 as to the means of determining what constituted the full market rate, *ib.* 160, 180, 181—Difficulty as to the men knowing, after the Act of 1859, whether they came under the Act; hence the Treasury decision in August 1861 giving pensions to those who entered up to 1861; *ib.* 618-622.

Treasury Minute of 6th December 1860 laying down the conditions necessary in order to bring persons under the Act; this Minute was laid before Parliament, but witness is not aware that it was ever printed, *Mowatt* 1207-1221—Explanation of the grounds upon which it is held by the Treasury that the provision in the Act of 1859, as to their decision of claims under the Act, excludes legally the cases of the men at the Arsenal; witness does not say they are excluded in equity, *ib.* 1227-1240.

View of the Treasury that, when the Act of 1873 was passed, the men appointed in 1859-61 fairly came within its intention, *Mowatt* 1235-1240—Conclusion as to the claim of the men appointed in 1861 arising at the time, though ten years' service was laid down as being necessary before a pension could be received, *ib.* 1242-1245.

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Turnbull, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Explanation that witness, who is a turner, entered the Arsenal in 1866 and signed a book in the office, but was not aware he was not entitled to superannuation; he entered at less than the market rate of wages, 1084-1106—Circumstance of his having signed his foreman's book about two or three years after entering the service, but without being aware of the regulation inserted therein as to his not getting superannuation, 1107-1121.

W.

WAGES (DAY PAY, PIECE WORK, &c.):

Statement to the effect that no difference in wages was made between men entered before or after 1859, nor between men entered before and after the Circular of August 1861; *Hughes* 53—Copy of the War Office Circular of 17th December 1861; provision therein as to the rate of wages being understood to be the "full market rate," *ib.*

Consideration of War Office statement that workmen in receipt of full market rate of wages were not entitled to superannuation under the Act of 1859; absence of difference in the rate before and after that year, *Hughes* 73, 74, 84, 106, 107—Lower rate of wages accepted by the men in consideration of the right to superannuation, *ib.* 118-121.

Exclusion

Report, 1888—continued.

WAGES (DAY PAY, PIECE WORK, &c.)—continued.

Exclusion from superannuation so long as the men were receiving the full market rate of wages, this condition being in force at the present time; particulars hereon, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 140-143. 149-155. 158-165. 175-178. 181—Explanation that save in the Carriage Department the men were in receipt of market rates of wages, so that their names were not sent in under the Circulars of August or December 1861; *ib.* 175-177—Importance chiefly of the Circular of August 1861, as being the one which specifies that men receiving the full market rate of wages shall not be entitled to superannuation, *ib.* 197.

Conclusion that the men entered in 1861-70 have really based their claim on the fact that they were getting only the same wages as the men admitted to superannuation and should equally be privileged; circumstance of the former class not having petitioned at all until after the Act of 1873; *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 206, 207—Production of the War Office correspondence and minutes in explanation of the regulations and practice as to the employment of men at the market rate, *ib.* 247-267.

Several advantages in addition to the full market rate of wages which the men in the Departments generally (except the Carriage Department) were receiving in 1861 and subsequently, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 267, 268. 287, 288—Quotation of certain evidence of Colonel Maitland before Lord Moile's Committee to the effect that in 1836-87 the men at the Arsenal were paid a little over the private rate of wages, *ib.* 277—Frequent alteration and increase in the rates paid during the last thirty years, witness being prepared to supply further evidence respecting the rates in 1861-70; *ib.* 277-283—Statement on the subject of the adjustment of the rate of pay with reference to piece-work, witness proposing to call the managers on this point, *ib.* 357-372.

Information respecting the wages of witness and of the foremen and working engineers under him in the Royal Laboratory, *Brodie* 441-453—Wages of witness as foreman; men in a similar position in civil factories often get more, *Williams* 586-592.

Information in detail respecting the wages at the Gun Factory in 1860 and 1870, the additional earnings at piece-work, and the relative amount on the whole as compared with the wages and earnings of men in the private trade, *Edmonds* 794 *et seq.*—Facility in getting men to enter the Factory; belief that in view of the large proportion of piece-work, the constant employment, holidays and sick-pay, the men at Woolwich are better off than those in private firms, *ib.* 812. 817 *et seq.*—Definition of the market rate of wages as the rate at which a man is willing to be engaged, *ib.* 817-826. 834-840.

Evidence to the effect that in day-pay and piece-work the men at Woolwich probably get less than those in private firms, but that this is more than made up by the holidays, sick-pay, &c., the latter emoluments being worth about 3 per cent. on the wages, *Edmonds* 844 *et seq.*

Witness who is manager of the Laboratory Department, which he entered in 1872, supplies sundry particulars respecting the relative rates of pay of fitters, turners and other workmen between 1860 and 1870; large increase of earnings when men are on piece-work, *Anderson* 888-918—Belief that at Enfield in 1873 the men were paid the full market rate, *McGee* 921-923. 929-940.

Varying rates of wages in the Carriage Department from 1860 to 1869; the rates were rather lower than in the private trade, *Tatton* 945-949—Large percentage of the men employed on piece-work; increase of about one-fourth in the earnings in these cases, *ib.* 950, 951.

Paper submitted by Mr. Edmonds explanatory of the rates of pay of artificers and machinists, and of labourers, in the Gun Factory; also the payments for piece-work, and the amount represented by holidays and sick-pay, *App.* 104.

Payment of the full market rate of wages in 1859; *Rep.* iv—Treasury letter of 7th January 1861, and replies thereto from the heads of various departments, through the War Office, to the effect that the men received the full market value for their services; exception in the case of the Carriage Department, *ib.* v, vi.

Instructions in War Office Circular of 19th February 1861 as to the men being paid full market rates, *Rep.* v, vi—Considerable difficulty in now determining whether the men were paid full market rate, *ib.* vii—Increased earnings of the men on piece-work, a large percentage being thus employed, *ib.* vii.

Inadvertence during the years 1859-61, whilst in the latter end of 1861 it was decided that men should be engaged at full market rates and not be entitled to superannuation, *Rep.* x.

See also *Carriage Department. Circulars of 1861. Gun Factories. Laboratories.*

Waltham Abbey. Record of the Circulars at Waltham Abbey, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 194-196; *Rep.* vii.

War Office. Explanation in connection with official answers on the part of the War Office to questions put by witness in the House of Commons, *Hughes* 71-79.

Report, 1888—continued.

War Office—continued.

Several Departments of the War Office in which certificates were obtained in accordance with the Circular of December 1861, whilst through inadvertence no action was taken by the heads of the Arsenal, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 163-174.

Reiteration of the view of the War Office (and of witness) that even if the men had no notice whatever of the Circulars of 1861 they suffered no money loss in consequence, and have no claim to compensation or to superannuation, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 241 *et seq.*; 283-297. 330, 331. 334.

Unbiased investigation of the whole question by witness (who is Assistant Under Secretary of State for War); he is prepared to submit his personal opinion on the subject, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 264-267. 276, 277. 283-287—Admitted claim to superannuation in the case of all men who entered between 1859 and 1861; *ib.* 306-308.

Paper submitted by Sir Arthur Haliburton, War Office, dated May 1889, containing sundry details as to the claim to superannuation made by workmen who joined the Royal Factories after 17th December 1861; adverse conclusion arrived at by the War Office, *App.* 99-101.

See also *Acts of Parliament. Carriage Department. Circulars of 1861. Lists, &c. Rules and Regulations. Superannuation or Compensation. Wages.*

Ward, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is a mechanical writer in the Carriage Department, which he entered for the second time in 1866, 966-969.

Absence of any notice to witness about superannuation when he joined in 1866; conclusion on his part that he was entitled to it, 970. 984. 1006—Examination as to witness having signed the Regulations book of Travis, the foreman of his Department in 1869, there having been no intimation at the time that he was not to get superannuation; belief that it was not the custom for the men generally to sign a book when they first joined, 971-1005.

Weaver, George. Case of a workman named Weaver, who entered in 1859 or 1860, and claimed a pension on his retirement in 1870; statement as to Weaver having been made to adopt a letter written out for him in the office, *Hughes.* 4-9. 16-26. 92, 93—Explanation that Weaver's claim was ultimately admitted, *ib.* 17. 26.

Statement as regards the application from a workman named Weaver, that his letter was not in any way prepared for him by a Government official but by one of his fellow-workmen, *Sir A. L. Haliburton* 155-157. 201—Quotation of correspondence in Weaver's case as showing that the Circulars of 1861 were known to, and relied upon by, him in support of his claim in 1870; *ib.* 198-201.

Witness, who is a writer at the Royal Gun Factory, explains the circumstances under which he drafted a letter in July 1870 for a workman named George Weaver applying for superannuation; doubt whether Weaver was previously aware of the Circulars of 1861, till witness told him of them, *Ronald* 596-617.

Summary by the Committee of the circumstances connected with the claim of Weaver in June 1870; *Rep.* viii.

Williams, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Continuous service of witness at Woolwich since June 1859; he is now principal foreman in the Laboratory, 576-581—Opinion that the men who entered after 1861 did not really know whether they were entitled to superannuation or not, 582. 593-595—Belief that the Circulars of 1861 were not made known to the men, 583-585—Wages of witness; men in similar position in civil factories often get more, 586-592.

R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

YORKSHIRE PROVIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

A N D A P P E N D I X.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
18 July 1889.*

LONDON.
PRINTED BY HENRY HANSARD AND SON;
AND
Published by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding-street, London, E.C.,
and 32, Abingdon-street, Westminster, S.W.;
ADAM and CHARLES BLACK, North Bridge, Edinburgh;
and HODGES, FIGGIS, and Co., 104, Grafton-street, Dublin.

[Monday, 15th July 1889]:—ORDER for Consideration of Special Report of Select Committee on Friendly Societies read.

Special Report read.

Ordered,—THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Yorkshire Provident Insurance Company, to consider the Special Report of the Select Committee on Friendly Societies, and to report to the House what action should be taken thereon.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Solicitor General.
Sir Charles Russell.
Mr. Forrest Fulton.

Mr. Francis W. Maclean.
Mr. Molloy.

THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

THAT Three be the Quorum.

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APPENDIX	- - - - -	p. 5

R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the affairs of the YORKSHIRE PROVIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY, to consider the SPECIAL REPORT of the Select Committee on FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, and to report to the House what action should be taken thereon;—HAVE considered the matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:—

YOUR Committee have had before them for examination the shorthand notes of the evidence given by Mr. Richard Martin before the Friendly Societies Committee, with respect to the Yorkshire Provident Insurance Company, and the books and papers produced by him, and also a Letter addressed to Sir Herbert Maxwell by Mr. Richard Martin, and certain books forwarded by Mr. Richard Martin to the Clerk to your Committee.

Your Committee, having considered the Special Report of the Friendly Societies Committee, and the evidence and other materials mentioned, are of opinion that such evidence, books, papers, and documents should be placed in the hands of the Public Prosecutor, in order that criminal proceedings may be instituted against the persons responsible for the management of the Yorkshire Provident Insurance Company.

Your Committee, having found in the materials before them sufficient ground for this recommendation, have not thought it right to summon and examine Mr. Richard Martin.

In view of the conclusion at which your Committee have arrived, they do not think it necessary to make any Report upon the question of Privilege referred to in the Report of the Select Committee on Friendly Societies.

18 *July* 1889.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Wednesday, 17th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Francis W. Maclean.
Mr. Solicitor General.

Mr. Forrest Fulton.

The Committee deliberated, and called Mr. Solicitor General to the Chair.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.]

Thursday, 18th July 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SOLICITOR GENERAL in the Chair.

Sir Charles Russell.

Mr. Forrest Fulton.

The Committee deliberated.

DRAFT REPORT, proposed by the *Chairman*, brought up and read a first time, as follows:—

“YOUR Committee have had before them for examination the shorthand notes of the evidence given by Mr. Richard Martin before the Friendly Societies Committee, with respect to the Yorkshire Provident Insurance Company, and the books and papers produced by him, and also a Letter addressed to Sir Herbert Maxwell by Mr. Richard Martin, and certain books forwarded by Mr. Richard Martin to the Clerk of your Committee.

“Your Committee, having considered the Special Report of the Friendly Societies Committee, and the evidence and other materials mentioned, are of opinion that such evidence, books, papers, and documents should be placed in the hands of the Public Prosecutor, in order that criminal proceedings may be instituted against the persons responsible for the management of the Yorkshire Provident Insurance Company.

“Your Committee, having found in the materials before them sufficient ground for this recommendation, have not thought it right to summon and examine Mr. Richard Martin.

“In view of the conclusion at which your Committee have arrived, they do not think it necessary to make any Report upon the question of Privilege referred to in the Report of the Select Committee on Friendly Societies.”

Draft Report, proposed by the *Chairman*, read a second time, paragraph by paragraph, and agreed to.

Ordered, to Report, together with the Minutes of Proceedings, and an Appendix.

A P P E N D I X.

Burnley, 13 July 1889.

To the Chairman of the Select Committee on Friendly Societies.

THE YORKSHIRE PROVIDENT ASSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED).

Sir,

IN regard to the remarks that are to be made on the affairs of the Company on the Report to the House of Commons on Monday next, I most respectfully beg leave to refer to my replies to Questions Nos. 6259, 6260, 6261, 6262, 6267, 6270, 6273, 6275, 6276, 6277, 6278, 6282. These questions refer to the sum of 696 *l.* 18 *s.* 7 *d.*, "Cash on deposit on current account and in hand," shown in the Balance Sheet for the 30th July 1887, to which I replied that it was in the hands of the Company (6259); "In the Directors' hands" (6260); "Not in our bank" (6261); "In the hands of the divisional managers" (6267); "That the accounts showed that they were owing that money" (6273). These replies were given by me whilst in a state of great mental confusion, and under an entire misapprehension of the nature of this particular item. The books of the Company on which the Balance Sheet of the 31st of July 1887 is based show the amount to have been made up as follows, viz. :—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
In the Craven Bank, as per Leeds Ledger, folio 18	-	-	-	243	13	3
In the Craven Bank, as per Burnley Ledger, folio 11	-	-	-	109	2	11
					352	16 2
In W. W. Brown and Company, as per Leeds Ledger, folio 211	-	-	-	140	7	1
In Secretary's hands, as per Leeds Cash Book	-	-	-	4	1	6½
In hand, as per Burnley Cash Book	-	-	-	199	13	9½
TOTAL	-	-	-	£.	696	18 7

I, therefore, most respectfully submit that this fact should be taken into consideration in any reference that is made to my unfortunate replies in connection with this sum of 696 *l.* 18 *s.* 7 *d.*

In Question No. 6292 I am asked where the 9,324 *l.* odd shown in the Statistical Table is. I beg leave to say that this is merely an aggregate balancing total to prove the correctness of the whole of the column. The real balance of the Assurance Fund is, as shown in the Balance Sheet, 432 *l.* 19 *s.* 4½ *d.*, and not 9,324 *l.*, as implied by the question. All the items preceding the 432 *l.* 19 *s.* 4½ *d.* in the same column merely represent the amount of the Assurance Fund at the end of each year respectively. These remarks apply also to Question 6294. The respective sums of 775 *l.*, 209 *l.*, and 432 *l.*, not being excess income, but the fluctuating of the Assurance Fund, showing that it had decreased from 775 *l.* to 209 *l.*, and then increased from 209 *l.* to 432 *l.*

As to Question No. 6298, the "Interest and Dividends" shown in the Revenue Account is simply the interest received from money invested, and bank interest, and has no connection with the amount of premiums received.

As to Questions Nos. 6310, 6312, the 6,308 *l.* 12 *s.* 11 *d.* is shown by the books as follows, viz. :—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Leeds Ledgers, folio 61.—Industrial Premiums	-	-	-	874	18	4
Burnley Ledger, folio 64.—Industrial Premiums	-	-	-	5,366	6	½
					6,248	4 4½
Leeds Ledger, folio 66.—Ordinary Premiums	-	-	-	2	11	11½
Burnley Ledger, folio 68.—Ordinary Premiums	-	-	-	136	4	10
					138	16 9½
					6,387	1 2
Less, Re-assurance, Leeds Ledger, folio 235	-	-	-		78	8 3
TOTAL	-	-	-	£.	6,308	12 11

As to Nos. 6361, 6362, 6363, 6365. The cash book does not, and certainly cannot, show a receipt or items of receipt for the 6,308 *l.* 12 *s.* 4 *d.*, as this is the gross amount of premiums, and the cash book only deals with the net amounts received after deductions have been made from the gross amount for Commissions and New Business Charges, besides which the 6,308 *l.* 12 *s.* 11 *d.* includes Outstanding Premiums and Agents' Balances not received in cash at the time the account is made up for the year.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Richard Martin.

(1st Copy for 1887.)

THE YORKSHIRE PROVIDENT LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED).

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st JULY 1887.

First Schedule.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
To Amount of Funds at the beginning of the Year - - - - -	1,053	18	8½	By Claims under Policies - - - - -	1,014	13	-
„ Shareholders' Capital paid during the year - - - - -	887	-	-	„ Re-assurance Premiums paid - - - - -	22	7	11
„ Premiums : £. s. d.				„ Commission - - - - -	1,012	3	5
Industrial - - - 3,318 5 3				„ Expenses of Management - - - - -	438	10	6
Ordinary - - - 124 6 2				„ Industrial Branch Extension Account Amount written off - - - - -	938	1	4
	3,442	11	5	„ Amount of Funds at the end of the year, as per Second Schedule - - -	2,074	19	5½
„ Interest and Dividends - - - - -	17	10	6				
„ Consideration for Annuity - - - - -	100	-	-				
	£.	5,500	15 7		£.	5,500	15 7½

BALANCE SHEET, 31st JULY 1887.

Second Schedule.

LIABILITIES.	£.	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£.	s.	d.
To Shareholders' Capital paid up - - - - -	1,165	10	-	By Leeds Corporation De- benture Stock - - - - -	102	16	11
„ Assurance Fund - - - - -	909	9	5½	„ Burnley Corporation De- benture Stock - - - - -	200	-	-
							302 16 11
Total Funds, as per First Schedule -	2,074	19	5½	„ Outstanding Premiums - - - - -			195 6 8½
„ Sundry Sums owing - - - - -	29	17	-	„ Cash in hands of Superintendents and Agents' Balances - - - - -			58 17 7
				„ Furniture - - - - -			90 16 8
				„ Stock on hand - - - - -			60 - -
				„ Industrial Branch Ex- tension Account - - - - -	1,638	1	4
				Less Amount written off - - - - -	938	1	4
							700 - -
				„ Cash on Deposit, on current Account and in hand - - - - -			696 18 7
	£.	2,104	16 5½		£.	2,104	16 5½

Dr. A. A. WATSON, Chairman.
B. MARTIN,
J. HOLLINBAKE, } Directors.
T. D. McDOUGALL, Secretary.

I hereby certify that I have compared the above Balance Sheet with the Books and Vouchers of the Company and find the same to be a full and correct Balance Sheet.

Leeds, 23 March 1888.

R. KINGSTON, Auditor.

(2nd Copy for 1887.)

THE YORKSHIRE PROVIDENT LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED).

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST JULY 1887.

First Schedule.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
To Amount of Funds at the beginning of the year - - - - -	1,053	13	8½	By Claims under Policies - - - - -	1,014	13	-
„ Shareholders' Capital paid during the year - - - - -	887	-	-	„ Commission - - - - -	1,012	3	5
„ Premiums :				„ Expenses of Management - - - - -	438	10	6
Industrial - - - - -	3,318	5	3	„ Industrial Branch Extension Account Amount written off - - - - -	1,638	1	4
Ordinary - - - - -	124	6	2	„ Amount of Funds at the end of the year, as per Second Schedule - - -	1,374	19	5½
	3,442	11	5				
„ Less Re-assurance paid - - - - -	22	7	11				
	3,420	3	6				
„ Interest and Dividends - - - - -	17	10	6				
„ Consideration for Annuity - - - - -	100	-	-				
	£. 5,478	7	8½		£. 5,478	7	8½

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST JULY 1887.

Second Schedule.

LIABILITIES.	£.	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£.	s.	d.
To Shareholders' Capital paid up - - - - -	1,165	10	-	By Leeds Corporation Debenture Stock - - - - -	102	16	11
„ Assurance Fund - - - - -	209	9	5½	„ Burnley Corporation Debenture Stock - - - - -	200	-	-
Total Funds, as per First Schedule -	1,374	19	5½	„ By Outstanding Premiums - - - - -	195	6	8½
„ Sundry Sums owing - - - - -	29	17	-	„ Cash in hands of Superintendents, and Agents' Balances - - - - -	58	17	7
				„ Furniture - - - - -	90	16	8
				„ Stock on hand - - - - -	60	-	-
				„ Cash on Deposit, on current account, and in hand - - - - -	696	18	7
	£. 1,404	16	5½		£. 1,404	16	5½

Dr. A. A. WATSON, Chairman.
R. MARTIN,
J. HOLLINRAKE, } Directors.
T. D. McDOUGALL, Secretary.

I hereby certify that I have compared the above Balance Sheet with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and find the same to be a full and correct Balance Sheet.

Leeds, 23 March 1888.

R. KINGSTON, Auditor.

R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

YORKSHIRE PROVIDENT INSURANCE
COMPANY;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE
AND APPENDIX.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
18 July 1889.*

[*Price 1 d.*]

262.

H.—33. 7. 89.

Under 1 oz.

3 2044 106 506 678